Guingona kept in dark on RP-US agreement

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2002 ★★ 46 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 40 P15

Solon says GMA needs to boost EQ

BY J. JAVELLANA AND D. PAZZIBUGAN

IF President Macapagal-Arroyo is wondering why she has been drawing a lot of flak lately, she might consider taking

SOLON/ A14

Cotabato doc's kidnap triggers 5-day strike

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ AND CHARLIE C. SEÑASE
PDI Mindanao Bureau

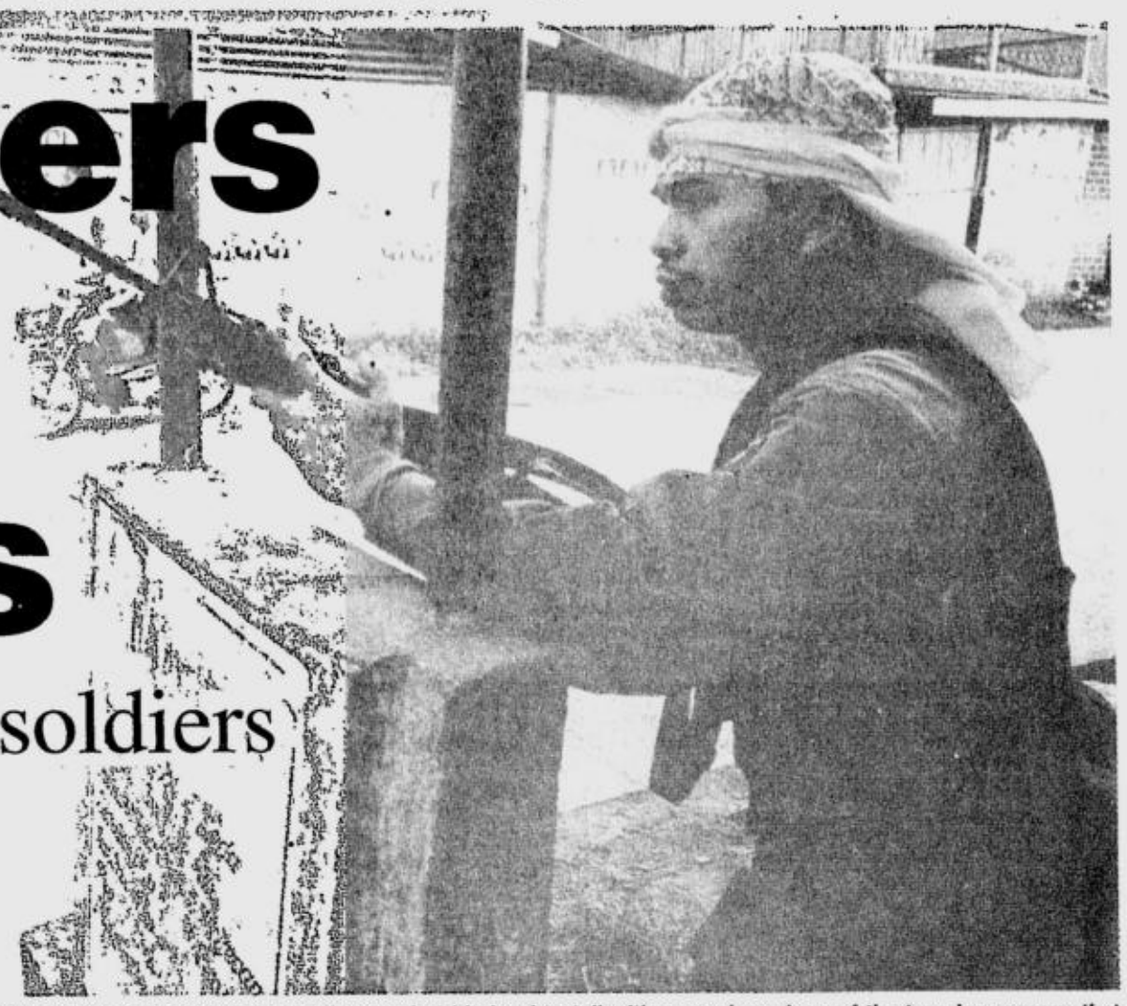
COTABATO CITY—Unidentified armed men abducted a prominent woman doctor here Tuesday night, triggering a strike by physicians and hospitals who called the incident an attack on a savior of lives.

Three of the kidnappers were later killed by

COTABATO/ A14

Scout Rangers butchered like animals

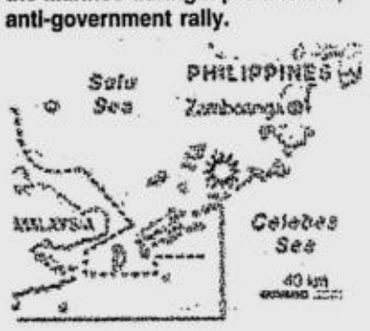
Pro-Misuari civilians maul dead soldiers



WHOSE side is he on? He's a policeman but it's hard to tell with several versions of the two-day carnage that residents say has turned Jolo into a ghost town. DENNIS SABANGAN

JOLO CLASHES

Police-Scout Rangers-civilians' deadly encounter in the Jolo public market on Wednesday a day after 21 people were killed in a gunbattle between the police and the Marines during a pro-Misuari, anti-government rally.



REUTERS

BY NORALYN MUSTAFA AND JULIE S. ALIPALA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

JOLO, Sulu—Violence flared anew here when irate civilians hacked to death three Scout Rangers near the market yesterday morning. The soldiers were reportedly decapitated.

The day before 21 Marines, policemen, and civilians were killed in clashes during a rally for Moro Leader Nur Misuari, who is jailed in Sta. Rosa, Laguna on rebellion charges.

Although an investigation has yet to be conducted, President Macapagal-Arroyo said that Misuari's followers had provoked the shootout between policemen and Marines on Tuesday.

"I don't think it was a misencounter. There was really a plan to cause mayhem," Ms Macapagal said in an interview over Angel Radio.

The attackers of the Scout Rangers were believed to be relatives of some of those killed and wounded in Tuesday's violence.

A survivor said policemen who were former members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) were also involved in the attack.

Private Rizaldy Laygan said the attackers pulled his fellow soldiers out of their jeep and hacked them as they lay dead or dying on the pavement. Laygan was seated in the back of the jeep.

"I jumped out of the jeep and ran and ran and rolled on the street and hid inside the toilet of a house until army reinforcements arrived," Laygan told the Associated Press.

Some residents also started to close in on INQUIRER photographer Dennis Sabangan, who was with the Scout Rangers. But some policemen, reportedly former MNLF members, begged for his life.

"I do not know why we were attacked," Laygan. "I pity my comrades. They were butchered like animals."

SCOUT/ A17

PNP pulls out ex-MNLF men to defuse tension in Jolo

Marines to stay put–for now, says military

BY TJ BURGONIO, JULIET JAVELLANA AND CYNTHIA D. BALANA

A TOTAL of 439 former Moro fighters integrated into the Philippine National Police will be sent back to Camp Pendatun in Parang, Maguindanao, to defuse tension in Jolo, Sulu.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza ordered the pullout following clashes between soldiers and PNP integrees that left at least 18 soldiers, policemen and civilians dead.

"We have to do that until things settle down to normal. The groups might keep on getting back at one another," said the PNP spokesperson, Chief Supt. Crescencio Maralit.

Before being sent back to Maguindanao, the integrees, who belong to the PNP Special Mobile Group, were ordered to return to the barracks. They assembled at the provincial police office in Camp Asturias in Jolo yesterday morning.

The integrees were part of more than 1,000 former members of the Moro National Liberation Front

PNP/ A17

Gloria foes raising funds in US, Canada

BY CARLITO PABLO

POLITICAL enemies of President Macapagal-Arroyo are raising funds in Filipino communities in the United States and Canada to finance a movement for her ouster, according to a Filipino businessman based in Vancouver.

In a statement using the letterhead of his company, Canadian-American International Business Unlimited, the businessman, Mike Moreno, said a number of Filipinos abroad were starting to believe that the President was "incapable of putting reforms in her government, as she has always promised."

"Some of us were requested to help raise funds to help finance the upcoming People Power IV," he said.

Moreno, 64, also said Filipinos abroad were aware of the allegations of "grand-scale corruption" that the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA) had raised against the President and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

He said the description of the President's spokesperson Rigoberto

GLORIA/ A17

Edsa I, II for all, key players reminded

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

MEN in uniform were everywhere Wednesday on first day of the "militarized" rites for Edsa II especially in Malacañang where the WPD-SWAT team is ready to come to its defense under WPD Director Nicolas Pasinos and his deputy, Supt. Pedro Bulaong. Edsa forces resent their exclusion from Edsa Shrine.

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM, ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

KEY players of People Power I and II should remember that the peaceful uprisings were not for anybody's "ambition" or for any political party or social class but for all Filipinos, Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas said yesterday.

At a Mass marking the first anniversary of the uprising that ousted President Joseph Estrada, Villegas said the peaceful revolts were primarily God's gift to the people. "People power is for service, not for ambition. People power is for people, not for anybody," he said.

Villegas, who is also the rector of the Edsa Shrine, was the main celebrant of the Mass attended by President Macapagal-Arroyo and members of her family, former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, and top government officials and representatives of civic groups.

But the ties that bind the President and the key players of the uprising that installed her in Malacañang continued to fray.

"This is the irony of ironies," said Ferdinand Gaite, secretary gen-

EDSA/ A16

'We have to crush Osama's local allies'

BY CARLITO PABLO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday defended the extension of the US-led global war on terrorism to the Philippines, saying the deployment of hundreds of US soldiers in Western Mindanao was within the bounds of the Constitution.

Ms Macapagal clarified that the US soldiers would merely be acting as advisers amid criticisms that she was allowing foreign troops to take part not just in a joint training exercise but in an actual military operation against the Abu Sayyaf.

She insisted in a radio interview

WE/ A14

A DONE DEAL

Guingona kept in dark on RP-US pact

BY ROCKY NAZARENO, TONETTE OREJAS, CYNTHIA BALANA AND JULIET JAVELLANA

THE SUSPICION is strong that the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) granting the United States basing rights in the country had already been signed and that it now governs the presence of American troops here.

"Very few know about it. It is not being made public," former Sen. Wigberto Tañada told the INQUIRER yesterday about his suspicions.

Former Sen. Jovito Salonga had also told the INQUIRER on Tuesday that the MLSA had been signed while "a cross-servicing agreement" was still under study.

If there is such an agreement, Vice President and Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona knows nothing about it. Yesterday, he said he has yet to be briefed by the Mutual Defense Board (MDT) on the military arrangement reached between the Philippines and the United States.

But a DFA source underscored that it would be difficult to justify any rescue operations under the MDT or the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

The MDT allows US intervention only in cases of external aggression while the VFA only provides for US training of Filipino

GUINGONA/ A14

Second FRONT PAGE

Perez hurdles CA, finally

AFTER being bypassed four times, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez was yesterday finally confirmed by the congressional Commission on Appointments.

Perez survived a 40-minute grilling from opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III who questioned his approval of a power contract deal between the National Power Corp. and the Argentina-based Impsa power firm.

"I'm happy that it's all over," said Perez.

Other Cabinet members still waiting for confirmation are Heherson Alvarez (environment), Pantaleon Alvarez (transportation and communications), Jose Isidro Camacho (finance), Emilia Boncodin (budget), Noel Cabrera (press) and Estrella Alabastro (science and technology).

Also confirmed yesterday was Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

There were concerns that Osmeña, who has fiercely opposed Perez's appointment, would invoke Section 20 of the CA rules that could have blocked Perez's confirmation.

Section 20 provides for a "non-debatable motion" to defer the confirmation of a nominee.

Osmeña said he had informed the majority last December that he only needed one session to ask more questions of Perez.

"So I just kept my word and did not invoke Section 20 anymore," he said.

Perez was also asked about the status of the plunder cases against jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada before the Sandiganbayan.

Perez said he was confident that "the way the trial is progressing (before the Sandiganbayan), the conviction of Mr. Estrada is imminent."

"My opinion is that after the trial, Mr. Estrada will be convicted as charged," he said.

Once the plunder cases are decided, the forfeiture case on Estrada's properties, which were allegedly acquired through dubious means would follow, Perez said. *Rocky Nazareno*

SECRETARIES Hernando Perez and Manuel Dayrit congratulate each other after their confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. JESS YUSON

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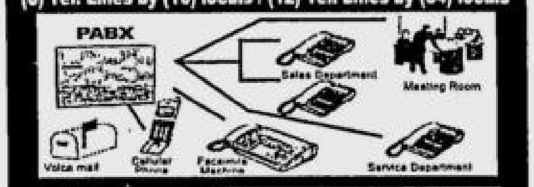

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Batangas port, phase 2: Better late than never

BY MEI MAGSINO
PDI SL Bureau
AND ABIGAIL L. HO

BATANGAS CITY—"So long have I waited for the Batangas port project's second phase to begin... but then again, it's better late than never."

With these words, President Macapagal-Arroyo led government officials and guests at groundbreaking rites yesterday for the second phase of the Batangas Port Development Project in Barangay Sta. Clara, this city.

The President said project studies were started back in 1989, "when I was still DTI undersecretary for the Office of Policy and Planning," but the P2.9-billion contract to build phase two was awarded only last month to Shimizu-FF Cruz.

The groundbreaking rites also marked the start of construction of the Lipa City-Ibaan-Batangas City portion of the 42-kilometer Southern Tagalog access road and the conversion of the Fernando Air Base training facility into an international airline and cargo center, Ms Macapagal said.

The port of Batangas is the transport hub for goods produced in the Calabarzon area and serves all the industries in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon.

Copra, cement, logs, lumber and minerals make up the bulk of cargo traffic.

The port is about two kilometers from the city proper and 120 kilometers south of Metro Manila.

The second phase is a joint project of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and local landowners, who contributed their land in exchange for stocks in the private corporation that will manage the project.

Present at the groundbreaking rites were Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, PPA general manager Alfonso Cusi, Shimizu-FF Cruz president Felipe Cruz, Asian Terminals Inc. deputy managing director Alistair Baillie, presidential adviser Eduardo Ermita, Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas and Batangas City Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha.

The total project cost of P5.5 billion will be funded by a P3 billion loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) with the balance of the cost to be shouldered by the Philippine government.

Cusi said actual construction would start within the quarter, as soon as the Shimizu-FF Cruz contract gets JBIC concurrence.

He said the PPA has already signed the contract and the National Economic and Development Authority investment coordination committee has approved it.

Phase two has a 1,080-day construction period which, Cusi said, would mean jobs for Batangas locals.

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NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED UNITRUST DEVELOPMENT BANK (UDB)

1. Starting January 18, 2002, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Unitrust Development Bank (UDB)**.
2. From January 18 to 25, 2002, depositors shall be serviced on an "alphabetical basis" depending on the starting letter of their surnames/company names, as follows:

January 18, 2002 (Friday)	-	A to B
January 21, 2002 (Monday)	-	C to D
January 22, 2002 (Tuesday)	-	E to J
January 23, 2002 (Wednesday)	-	K to O
January 24, 2002 (Thursday)	-	P to R
January 25, 2002 (Friday)	-	S to Z

3. After January 25, 2002, deposit claims processing and settlement shall be on a "first come, first served" basis.
4. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the UDB office/branch where they maintained their deposits, which have been designated as payoff sites (please refer to table below). PDIC representatives are stationed at these payoff sites to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

UDB Office/Branch and Payoff Site	Servicing Dates
Head Office 803 J.P. Rizal cor. F. Zobel St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	January 18 to February 15, 2002
Baclaran Branch G/F Fox Cinema Building, Quirino Avenue, Baclaran, Parañaque	January 18 to February 8, 2002
Caloocan Branch G/F Doña Lolita Bldg., Rizal Avenue Ext., Brgy. 62, Caloocan City	January 18 to February 1, 2002
Cash and Carry Branch Cash & Carry Commercial Center, South Superhighway, Makati City	January 18 to February 15, 2002
Cubao Branch 904 Aurora Blvd., Brgy. Cubao, 3rd Dist., Quezon City	January 18 to February 1, 2002
Exchange Corner Branch G/F Exchange Corner Bldg. 107 Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	January 18 to February 8, 2002
Guadalupe Branch 15-E Glean Bldg., Brgy. Guadalupe Nuevo, EDSA, Makati City	January 18 to February 8, 2002
Kalayaan Branch Tamayo Bldg., 3786 Kalayaan Avenue Brgy. Pinagkaisahan, Makati City	January 18 to February 15, 2002
Makati Avenue Branch Makati Avenue cor. Singian St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	January 18 to February 8, 2002
Marikina Branch 297 J.P. Rizal St., Brgy. Sto. Niño, Marikina City	January 18 to February 8, 2002
Quiapo Branch Don Juan Pasco Bldg., Unit 204-206, Quezon Blvd. cor. Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila	January 18 to February 8, 2002
San Juan Branch 75 N. Domingo St., Brgy. Rivera, San Juan, Metro Manila	January 18 to February 1, 2002
Sucat Branch 79 Teoville Subd., President Ave., Brgy. BF Homes, Parañaque City	January 18 to February 8, 2002

After the said servicing dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to:

The Manager
Claims Processing Center
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City

5. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit and/or unused check & latest bank statement; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositors's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
6. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Unitrust Development Bank is on **June 28, 2003**. After **June 28, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

(PDI - Jan. 16 & 17, 2002) PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Department of Agrarian Reform
Adjudication Board (DARAB)
Annex Bldg., DAR Central Office Cmpd., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a Resolution in **DARAB Case No. 2296** (Reg. Case No. 245-P-90) entitled **APOSTOL ESGUERRA versus RODOLFO PINGOL** was promulgated by the DAR Adjudication Board, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City on December 1, 2000.

Counsels and parties to this case particularly **Rodolfo Pingol** whose last known address was in **San Vicente, Apalit, Pampanga** are hereby advised to get a copy of the said decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of the posting of this notice, without any Petition for Review being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision to this case shall become final and executory.

January 14, 2002. Diliman, Quezon City

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

January 17 & 24, 2002 – Inquirer

Gloria set to travel to UK, US, Canada

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is off again for foreign shores by month's end, visiting three countries.

The President will visit London in Britain, Toronto and Ottawa in Canada and finally New York and Chicago in the United States.

She will be away for 10 days, from Jan. 26 to Feb. 4, according to the latest schedule.

The UK trip, the President's first to a European country since her ascendancy, is primarily to meet Prime Minister Tony Blair.

She will stay overnight in the British capital before flying to Canada.

This will be the President's first visit to Canada.

Malacañang is reportedly trying to get the Canadian trip upgraded from a working into a state visit.

From Toronto and Ottawa, she will fly to New York to address the World Economic Forum, which gathers the world's top business executives.

Ms Macapagal will go on to Chicago from New York before returning home.

She was in the US last November for a nine-day working visit. She visited Washington D.C., New York City and Los Angeles.

She also made a brief stopover in Mexico City.
Dona Pazzibugan

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Saguisag questions Erap gag order

LAWYERS of Joseph Estrada quote d US jurisprudence yesterday in questioning the "gag order" imposed by the Sandiganbayan on the jailed ex-president.

Then they cited to Filipino "culture" in complaining about the limited number of people allowed to visit Estrada at his detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

In a manifestation, counsel Rene Saguisag branded the restriction "unconstitutional and ill-advised," saying it hardly befits a former chief executive who still commands a "constituency."

On Monday, the court's Third Division which hears Estrada's plunder case initially banned media interviews with him inside the court building, but later allowed him a 10-minute press conference at his holding room.

Saguisag cited a US court ruling involving the Houston Chronicle Publishing which asserted the media's "right to seek out news" and "the rights of prisoners to free speech."

"The (US) court declared unconstitutionally invalid and void rules forbidding all face-to-face interviews with federal inmates," the manifestation said.

Even in jail, Saguisag argued, Estrada "speaks for and to a constituency" as one of the country's remaining four living Presidents.

The gag order came at a time when, according to another Estrada lawyer Raymund Fortun, Estrada's views on the first anniversary of his ouster were being sought by an increasing number of local and foreign journalists.

On Estrada's reduced number of authorized visitors, Saguisag said:

"We have also culture where it is encouraged to visit detainees so that it is indefensible that (the ex-president's) visitors will be limited to close kin and counsel."

This recent jail restriction was a consequence of Estrada holding a lavish Christmas party while in detention on Dec. 28, during which he gave an "unauthorized" TV interview critical of the Macapagal administration. *Volt Contreras*

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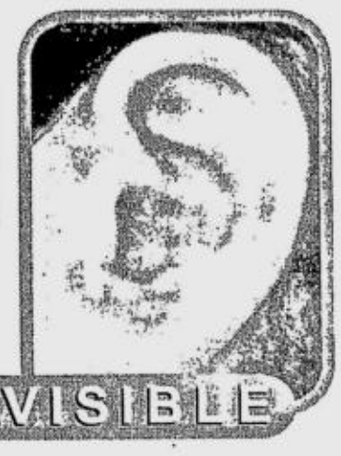
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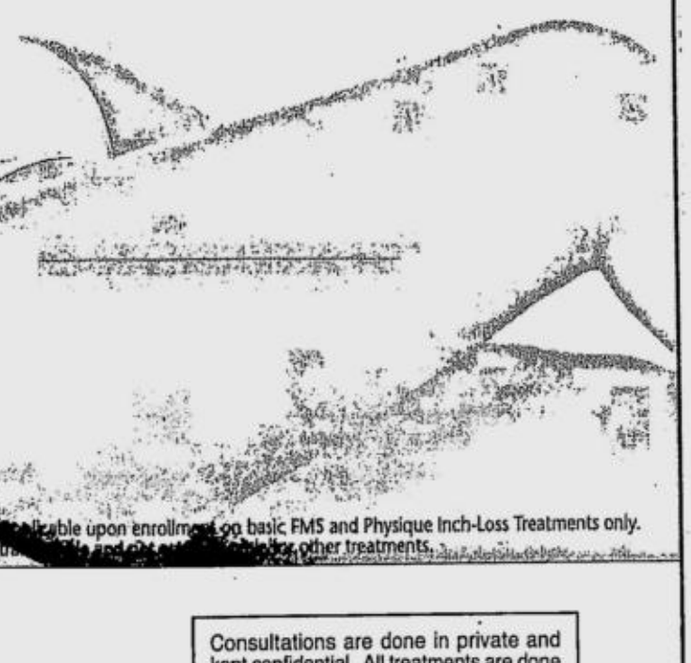
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FEDERATED ASSOCIATION OF MANPOWER EXPORTERS, INCORPORATED

Tuesday, January 15, 2002

Her Excellency
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace, San Miguel
Manila

Your Excellency;

Before anything else, we would like to thank you for issuing, last July 30, 2001, **Executive Order No. 76**, declaring this year as the ***"YEAR OF THE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT PROVIDERS"***, in recognition of the significant contributions of private employment agencies and their associations in helping provide overseas employment and welfare protection to millions of Filipino contract workers, among which are the following:

1. We successfully searched for, found and secured, primarily through our own initiative, efforts and resources, more than **15,000,000** overseas jobs for our fellowmen in about 165 countries, in the last 25 years.
2. The workers whom we deployed have remitted into the country more than **US$ 46 Billion** in foreign exchange earnings during the same period. This is aside from the plane fares and the mobilization and service fees paid by our principals.
3. We employ more than **15,000 personnel** out of the **977** POEA licensed landbased agencies.
4. We contributed an estimated amount of no less than **PhP8 Billion** in taxes, licenses and processing fees to the national treasury and contributions to OWWA.
5. We deposited in trust at the POEA and in Philippine banks close to **PhP300Million** in cash bonds and escrows as required by POEA.
6. We provide employment and income opportunities to other businesses, industries and sectors like the medical examination clinics and hospitals, trade testing and skills training centers, travel agencies, airlines, banks, door-to-door money remittance and cargo services, and even NGOs.

It was therefore with a high degree of enthusiasm and expectation that we, in the overseas employment industry, had looked forward to the programs and ceremonies that you ordered to be organized by POEA, OWWA and TESDA, all attached agencies of the DoLE, in cooperation with the DFA, in celebration of this year 2002 as the ***"Year of the Overseas Employment Providers"***.

OUR CURRENT PREDICAMENT

We wish to relay to you our extreme disappointment with the hard-line stance of the DoLE and POEA leadership against our appeals to defer the approval and implementation of the 2002 POEA Rules and Regulations, pending further, wider and deeper consultations with all stakeholders in the overseas employment program, on various crucial issues. The DoLE Secretary, in her various media pronouncements, indicated that she will proceed with the immediate implementation of the said 2002 POEA Rules. In our proposals, we requested that recruitment policies should take into consideration market realities, global competition and other country specific peculiarities.

We fully understand the concern of our Honorable Labor Secretary to promote and protect the interest of our OFWs. **WE ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED, MADAM PRESIDENT**. We care for the workers that we deploy. Whatever may happen to them, during their employment is our responsibility. In fact, even three (3) years after they complete their employment contracts, we are still responsible. No other business or industry in the Philippines bears the same liability as we do.

What we are emphasizing to the DoLE/POEA leadership is the fact that, while it is true that there are markets like Japan, U.S. and U.K. where we need not collect any placement fee or collect only the authorized **ONE-MONTH SALARY**, **we cannot apply** the same to about **85%** of the current overseas labor market, like in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Lebanon, Israel and even in the Middle East.

In these countries of destination, more often than not we are not dealing directly with the actual foreign employers. We are obliged to deal with intermediaries or agencies, which have become integral players in the market. They are the ones looking for employers, processing contracts, applying visas and work permits and, more importantly, attending to whatever problems that the workers may encounter with their employers, for which services they charge fees.

We do not mean, however, Madam President, that we just blindly and sheepishly agree to whatever impositions of our foreign counterparts make. Through our member associations, we have taken the initiative of negotiating with our counterpart associations in said countries.

In Hong Kong, for example, we have succeeded in convincing our counterparts to cut down the present cost of recruitment by 33%, from the prevailing equivalent of three (3) months salary of the household workers. In Taiwan alone, due to the continuous lobbying and constant coordination of our member association and their counterparts, workers deployed to Taiwan enjoy a 30% reduced cost of recruitment spread over three (3) years, enabling workers to get a much higher take-home pay.

These are all on top of the many different and effective welfare and protective mechanisms already adopted and accomplished by the different religious and NGOs at the respective host countries. This has been the subject of our proposal to the DOLE/POEA, which until now has not been adequately addressed.

We are afraid, Madam President, that if the present policy direction of the DOLE/POEA leadership is not corrected, we would not be able to contribute your goal of deploying **ONE-MILLION OFWs** this year. The many employment intermediaries that operate actively in the biggest markets for OFWs would simply skip the Philippines and bring job orders to Indonesia and Thailand, which allow the collection of relatively higher placement fees.

While we agree that our OFWs are still preferred by many foreign employers, global economics, competition and business factors could easily work against us. Indonesia, for example, has embarked a joint government-private sector massive and intensive training program for their household workers.

And worse, if the licensed agencies are eased out of the business, our countrymen will still find ways of working abroad i.e., **THROUGH ILLEGAL RECRUITERS**, and shall therefore be beyond the protective mechanism that we the licensed agencies are mandated to provide.

Of course, it is easy for some people who never had to walk the streets in search for a job under the scorching heat of the sun or in the midst of pouring rain to nonchalantly say that, if the labor importing countries will not abide by Philippine laws, rules and regulations, then we can just look for other markets. **THIS IS NOT TRUE MADAM PRESIDENT.** With the global economic crisis, and the increasing competition from emerging labor-exporting countries, we are pessimistic if we can still have a much bigger market share for our workers other than the existing ones. The United Kingdom and the other European labor importing countries have recently commenced recruitment of Filipino workers but on a **VERY LIMITED SCALE.** We are facing stiff competition from countries like **India, South Africa, Malaysia, Nepal** and other countries with highly skilled, yet unemployed, manpower population.

Lastly, we assure you MADAM PRESIDENT of our commitment to cleanse our ranks of unscrupulous elements. We undertake to upgrade the quality of our services, negotiate with foreign employers for better terms and conditions of employment and institute more protective measures for our Overseas Filipino Workers.

OUR APPEAL

We truly believe that the DoLE and POEA, instead of killing the goose that lays the golden egg, should come out with realistic policies, doable plans and programs, supportive of your personal desire and goal to provide gainful employment to as many Filipinos as possible.

Accordingly, pursuant to the deregulation policy laid down in Republic Act No. 8042, which was enacted during the time that you were still in the Senate, we earnestly pray and appeal to you to order the following:

1. The deferment of the approval and implementation of the Revised POEA Rules and Regulations, pending further and deeper consultations with all stakeholders involved in the overseas employment program;
2. The recall of **Department Order No. 11, series of 2001,** and the implementation of the letter and spirit of Art. 18 of the Labor Code, as amended, which prohibits direct-hiring;
3. The recall of **POEA Memorandum Circular No. 16, series of 2001** and the immediate adoption of country/region-specific guidelines on recruitment, placement and documentation costs, expenses and fees, based on existing/ new market realities;
4. The amendment of Executive Order No. 247, Series of 1987, to limit the POEA's recruitment and placement functions to servicing the manpower requirements of foreign governments and their instrumentalities; and
5. The appointment of one member of the POEA Governing Board to be nominated by the landbased overseas employment industry associations as their representative.

PLEASE HELP US SAVE OUR INDUSTRY TO ENABLE US TO CONTINUE GIVING OVERSEAS JOBS TO OUR BELOVED COUNTRYMEN.

THANK YOU AND MORE POWER TO YOU.

FEDERATED ASSOCIATIONS of MANPOWER EXPORTERS (FAME), Inc.

Overseas Placement Association of the Philippines (OPAP)
Eduardo T. Mahiya
President

Society of Hong Kong Accredited Recruiters of the Philippines (SHARP)
Alfredo P. Palmiery
President

Asian Recruitment Council (ARCo)
J. Salvador S. Curameng
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Philippine Association of Recruitment Agencies Deploying Artists (PARADA)
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Navarrete stabbed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Former World Boxing Council junior lightweight champion Rolando Navarrete was attacked by an irate neighbor Tuesday evening after an alleged mauling incident.

Police said the former boxer was rushed to the St. Elizabeth Hospital after the suspect, identified as Elmer Yuson, 27, hacked him twice.

Doctors said Navarrete, once dubbed the "bad boy of Dadiangas (now General Santos)," is in stable condition.

Yuson, a resident of Block 3, Llido Subdivision, Barangay Bula here, surrendered after the incident and is being held at the Bula police station.

The suspect, who lives near Navarrete, said he went to a *sari-sari* store at 8:45 p.m. to buy cigarettes.

He said Navarrete, who was allegedly drunk, approached him and, without warning, punched him in the left side of his body.

Yuson said he fell to the ground, but Navarrete punched him again.

Realizing he was no match for the former boxing champion, Yuson said he went home and got a *machete* (bolo), which he used to hack the victim.

The INQUIRER tried to get Navarrete's side, but guards said they were told not to let anybody in, including journalists.

More than a year ago, Navarrete was also hospitalized after a still unidentified person in Barangay Bula knifed him. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Farmers hit ex-solon over 'Mamburao 6'

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

THE MILITANT Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) assailed yesterday former congressman Ricardo Quintos Jr. of Occidental Mindoro for blocking the release of six farmers accused of killing his two sons in 1997.

The so-called "Mamburao 6," now detained at the Quezon City jail, are accused of murdering Paul and Michael Quintos on Dec. 13, 1997 in Barangay Cinco, Mamburao town. The communist New People's Army had claimed responsibility for the killing.

The accused are Ruben Balaguer, Gelito Bautista, Eduardo Hermoso, Mario Tobias, Joshua Ungsod and Manolito Matricio, a member of the KMP national council at the time of his arrest four years ago. None of the six had claimed membership in the NPA, although Hermoso confessed to being the gunman.

The justice, interior and defense departments recommended the release of the six as a confidence-building measure to help restart stalled peace talks with the communist National Democratic Front. President Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the release of the six and 24 other political prisoners.

Quintos, however, strongly protested the release of the six, saying the murder charges against them are still pending before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court. The alleged mastermind of the murders—former congressman Jose Villarosa, Quintos' political rival—is out on bail.

Rafael Mariano, KMP chair, said the six accused are merely farmers who were implicated in the Quintos brothers slay because they were actively pushing for the immediate distribution of a 604-hectare agricultural property owned by the Golden Country Farms Inc. (GCFI) of the Quintoses.

Mariano said the land dispute between Quintos and the farmers was the real reason the farmers were suffering "injustice behind bars."

"The farmers were harassed by Quintos in defense of their land. From the DAR, Congress and the parliament of the streets they seek social justice," he said.

In 1999, during a hearing into the case, the wives and children of the Mamburao 6 picketed the Quezon City RTC seeking the dismissal of the charges that they said were trumped up by Quintos.

They also demanded justice for Leonardo de la Cruz, said to be another suspect who was killed in an alleged shootout with policemen. Another suspect, Balbino Fernandez, died while in the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation in Manila.

Bautista and Balaguer had actually been allowed to post bail of P100,000 for each count, but they failed to come up with the money.

The farmers' families have demanded their release since no witnesses have come forward to positively identify them. All the accused, including Villarosa, pleaded not guilty to two counts of murder each.

Hermoso, who submitted an extra-judicial confession, had claimed he was among 19 persons who met at a warehouse in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, to plot the killing of Michael Quintos, then 27, and a barangay chieftain in Mamburao.

Hermoso was identified by a witness as the one who entered a party at a house in Barangay Cinco on the night of Dec. 13, 1997 and pumped several bullets into Michael. Michael's brother Paul, 31, was also shot to death after being mistaken for a bodyguard.

Mariano said De la Cruz was killed while asleep alone in his house, and not in a shootout as claimed by policemen. Mariano identified his alleged assailants as SPO1 Leopoldo Mulingbayan, Roel Bautista, Dong Poblador and Restituto Perol, said to be land overseers loyal to Quintos.

De la Cruz's father, Marcelo, was killed in 1997 at the height of a land dispute at Golden Country Farms.

Critic turns around, now backs Alvarez

A NON-GOVERNMENT organization opposed to the appointment of Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez yesterday turned around and threw its support behind Alvarez's congressional confirmation.

Members of the 10,000-strong Bangon Pasay Movement, a Pasay-based NGO, which used to mount protests against Alvarez's appointment, went to Congress yesterday to support his confirmation, said Rogelio Estrella, the group's president.

The group used to join the employees of companies associated with the Manila International Airport Association of Service Operators (Maso) in demonstrations to protest Alvarez's appointment.

Estrella said Bangon Pasay had dissociated itself from Maso after it learned that it was being used by "vested interests" in their "vicious machinations" to replace Alvarez.

"There is an orchestrated campaign against (Alvarez) and our organization was used as an unwitting tool," Estrella said.

Ground handling service companies, grouped under the Maso, oppose Alvarez's support for the construction of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3 as they stand to lose millions of pesos with the new terminal.

Bangon Pasay had protested the construction as it feared the new terminal's effects on the livelihood of businesses near it.

It filed a case questioning the award of the Naia Terminal 3 contract to the German-led consortium, Piatco.

The case was dismissed by the Ombudsman, which found the award of the contract aboveboard. *Norman Bordadora*

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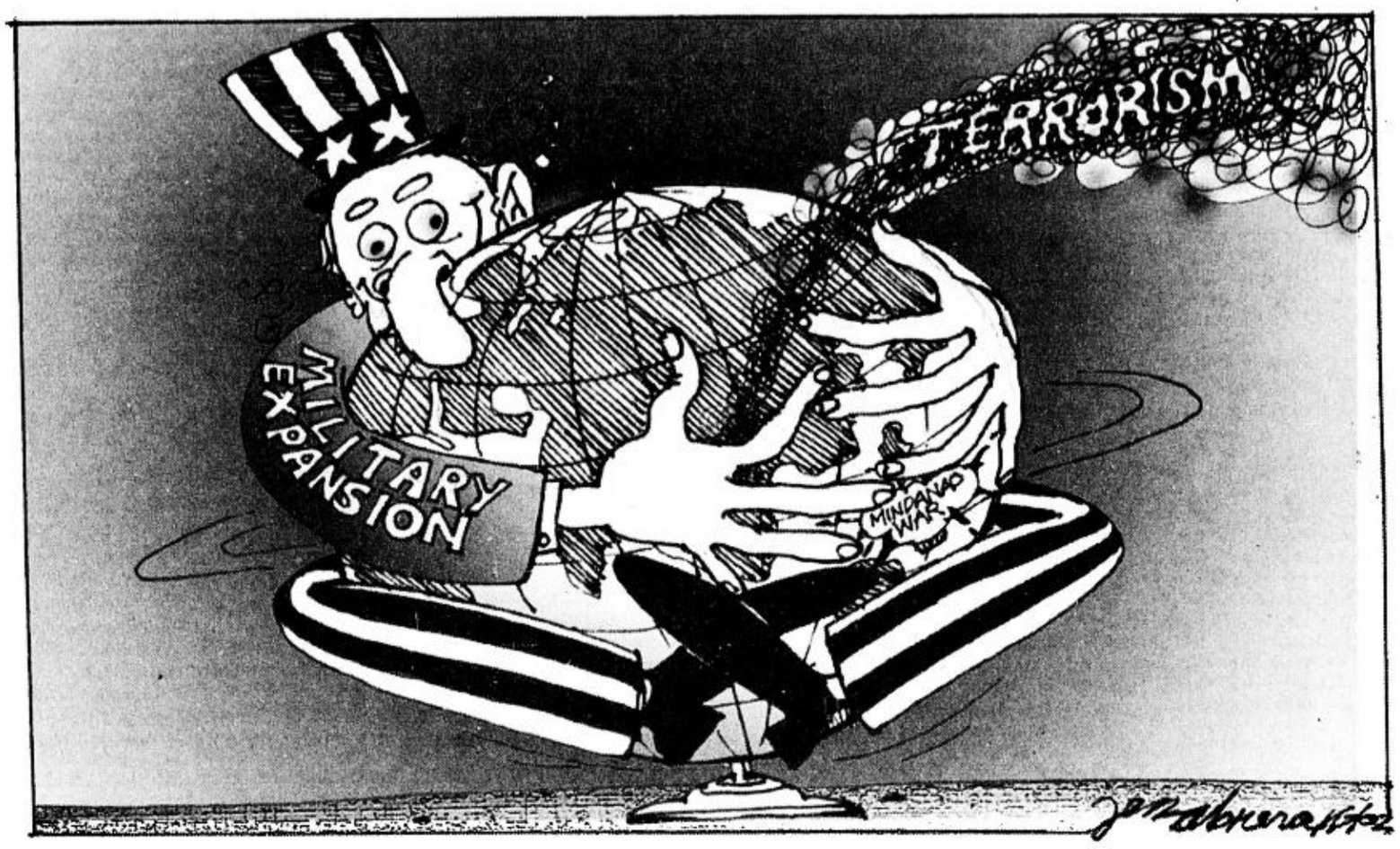

Communication gap

EDITORIAL

IN THE RUN-UP to the observance of the first anniversary of the assumption of the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Jan. 20, the business community has added its voice to the numerous criticisms of the administration. Being a key sector in economic recovery, its voice can be given more weight than the blather being peddled by some civil society groups whose advocacy of a civil-military junta should be dismissed as plain rubbish.

Using the Federation of Philippine Industries as a sounding board, its chair, Raul Concepcion, said the country "needed a charismatic leader (who can) motivate and rally the people to move forward." "The President is a good manager," he said. "However, in times of crisis, the country needs a leader, not a manager." While the businessmen were not now dumping the administration the way they thrashed deposed President Estrada, Concepcion said, the President had not delivered on her promises and had not given inspiration to the nation.

This assessment of the Macapagal style of leadership that faults her for lack of "charisma" echoes the lament of members of the Philippine Forum, an organization of businessmen, politicians and cultural leaders under 50 years of age. They have said Ms Macapagal manages but does not lead.

This call for charismatic leadership from the business community, and even from the so-called "successor generation," is unfortunately caught in contradictions. Success in business usually depends on competent impersonal and technocratic management, and the bowels of business resonate with the call for charisma. Business is not the place to find charisma. Not very long ago, nearly the entire business sector deserted Joseph Estrada, who was oozing with so much charisma that he had the poor eating from his hands through the hocus-pocus of his counterfeit pro-poor rhetoric, because of managerial incompetence and corruption.

The management style of Ms Macapagal fits the milieu of the businessmen, and so the public is a bit confused over what the businessmen really want. In the businessmen's eyes, there is always something deficient in any government: if it is not bad governance, it is lack of charisma.

They can't change the President's style unless she is born again, and charisma cannot be extracted from a cold fish. So, they have to live with a manager and stop asking for charisma.

Some businessmen have also described Ms Macapagal as a "know-all"—a perception that puts them off and that blocks a dialogue between them and the President. The absence of such a dialogue should worry her more than the criticism of being a manager. Her managerial competence is acknowledged by most of her critics who, however, would like to see more results.

The President should be concerned that there is growing skepticism even among businessmen over her claims of accomplishments. She has rattled off statistics detailing the accomplishments of her administration against the targets she set in her first State of the Nation Address six months ago. The report indicates under-achievement. Even if we give allowance that she took office under some severe handicaps, her first year has been undermined by political instability, and the economy has been caught by the global economic slowdown, it should be a concern to her that many businessmen do not accept her accomplishment claims at face value. What this means is that her credibility is eroding.

The business community does not always speak in one voice, although it is fatal for any government to lose the confidence and support of the majority of business and trade chambers. That is not happening to the Macapagal administration. What is happening is that there's a communication gap between her and the business community.

The Makati Business Club gives her credit for reining in the budget deficit, and for regaining business confidence, but points out that both the government and business have not focused on economic recovery and have been distracted by events creating political instability. It warns that unless efforts are refocused on the economy, particularly to make it competitive, the country will again be overtaken by other economies in the region. It is in this area where the President could provide leadership, if only to remove the sting of criticism that she is politicking too much to gain advantage in 2004.

Oil cartel still cheating us

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SINCE Chair Benjamin Abalos of the Metro Manila Development Authority has designated five intersections on Edsa as "traffic discipline zones," may I suggest that he add one more: the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Tandang Sora, below the flyover in Quezon City. Traffic anarchy reigns there every day and traffic enforcers rarely show up. And even when they do, they don't seem to know what to do to keep traffic moving.

Traffic discipline should start with the commuters waiting for rides. There is a waiting shed just a few steps away from the intersection where commuters are sheltered from sun and rain. But nobody goes there; nobody bothers to take the few steps to go there. They prefer to wait right on the intersection, right in front of the "No loading/unloading" signs.

On the rare occasion that a traffic enforcer is there, he doesn't bother to tell the commuters to wait for their ride where they should: at the waiting shed. He just focuses his attention on the buses and jeepneys which do not stop at the waiting shed but right where the passengers are, of course.

As a result, this intersection is perennially blocked by vehicles waiting for passengers in spite of the yellow box. Vehicles on Tandang Sora going straight to Katipunan or turning right to Commonwealth are blocked by the buses and jeepneys lined up on the intersection itself, waiting for passengers. So traffic on Tandang Sora backs up a kilometer or more, beyond the entrance to Tierra Pura Homes.

On the other side of Commonwealth, Fairview-bound jeepneys stop to wait for passengers on the left side of the lane, not on the right side where they should. Why? Because the passengers wait there; they don't bother to walk a few steps across the street which is the loading/unloading zone. As a result, vehicles on Commonwealth planning to turn left to Tandang Sora are blocked and traffic backs up to beyond the Iglesia ni Cristo pedestrian overpass.

This intersection will remain a constant headache unless traffic discipline is imposed. At the corner is the Tierra wet market with a McDonald's outlet on the ground floor. This should be a "No parking" zone because it is right smack on the intersection. The market has a parking lot fronting Commonwealth, but *carinderias*, sidewalk vendors and tricycles have taken over it. Only one line of vehicles on the sidewalk itself can be accommodated there.

On the other hand, across Tandang Sora, the parking space has been taken over as a terminal for jeepneys which often overflow to Commonwealth Avenue, extending to the underpass itself. Beyond the jeepney terminal are hordes of sidewalk vendors lining up the sidewalks to beyond Luzon Avenue.

As a result, customers of the wet market and the neighboring shops are forced to double-park on both sides of Tandang Sora, right at this corner, thus blocking traffic. Sometimes, residents of Tierra Bella Homes, whose entrance/exit is just a block from the corner, cannot get out of their village because vehicles block their exit.

I know the MMDA does not have enough traffic enforcers to assign there 24 hours a day, but why doesn't it and the Department of Interior and Local Government deputize barangay tanods to direct traffic when the regular enforcers have to leave? What are we paying these barangay officials for? They have their names proudly emblazoned on signs at the corner but they're not ashamed that their barangay is a mess. Imposing traffic discipline should give them something to do besides collecting *tong* from squatters who are increasing very quickly in their barangays.

* * *

Whatever happened to the much ballyhooed campaign against colorum buses by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board? Now that the publicity has died down, they're back with a vengeance. Buses are lined up bumper-to-bumper all along Edsa at all hours, and many of them don't have enough passengers.

Obviously, the bus companies and the drivers and conductors still earn enough despite the reduced number of passengers because many commuters now prefer to take the Metrorail. The reason to that is again obviously because the passenger fares are overpriced. Fuel prices have been reduced several times already but the transportation sector still has to reduce fares. When fuel prices go up, buses and jeepneys are quick to raise their fares; but when fuel prices go down, they think of so many excuses not to reduce fares.

* * *

By the way, the Big 3 oil cartel is still cheating us on the fuel prices although it has reduced prices a few times because of the drop in the world price of crude oil. The fuel price cuts of the Big 3 should have been bigger but it is again cheating us.

According to computations by the Oil Price Watch, the fuel price cuts should have been 70 centavos more per liter. The oil companies are keeping the 70-centavo overprice that should have been returned to us through price cuts. That translates to P18 billion more in net profits for the oil companies.

The Department of Energy is supposed to be monitoring prices to protect the consumers but it is either sleeping on the job or its officials are in the pockets of the oil firms so they are not doing anything to stop the thievery that is going on under their noses.

How do we stop such greed and negligence? Only the passage of the bill creating the Oil Exchange will stop them. That bill will open the local oil industry to competition (as the Oil Deregulation Law envisioned) from the world's oil companies so that we get the lowest possible fuel price in the world. The Big 3 would no longer be able to cheat us.

The Villa woman

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

QUITE serendipitously, I saw a very nice movie on HBO last Monday that had something to say about it. The movie was "The Winslow Boy," a quiet British production about a family that fights for a boy's honor.

The story tells of a 14-year-old boy, a cadet in the naval academy, who is wrongly accused of cashing a forged check and expelled from school. The expulsion does not weigh heavily on the boy's academic future, and indeed he gets to enroll in another school easily. But the boy's father decides it is a wrong that needs to be righted. He fights for the boy's innocence, making a case of it before the admiralty. It proves hard to prosecute, the admiralty being immune from suit. First, the House of Commons has to agree to it, and it is not particularly inclined to do so.

The case takes its toll on the family. It not only succeeds in impoverishing them, it succeeds in making them the laughingstock of England. At one point, they themselves wonder if the effort is worth it—had they kept the expulsion secret, no one would have been the wiser. The family gets to be an object of ridicule, and widely depicted as a nuisance. One editorial cartoon shows John Bull being diverted from weighty matters of state by the inconsequential case represented by a screaming child.

The majority in the House feels the same way. One MP says in a speech that the government has done everything in its power to satisfy the demands of justice, and so they should consider the matter closed. That prods the family's supporter in the House to rise to the floor and to rise to heights of eloquence in defense of his cause. There is one very important principle that animates an order based on freedom, he says, and that is never to side with the powerful to silence the weak. The same principle, he says, is put more simply in everybody's favorite book: "What you do to the least of your brethren, you do unto me."

I realized while watching this movie that we had the same thing in real life playing right before our very eyes. That is the saga of Lenny Villa's mother who has spent the last 11 years of her life trying to get justice for her son's death. Last week, the Court of Appeals acquitted 19 of 26 Aquila Legis fraternity members of the fatal hazing of Villa. In the decision written by Justice Eulogo G. Versola, the court argued that Villa's consent to undergo physical initiation rites voided the guilt of those who contributed to his death. Except for two who bore him a grudge and deliberately wanted to harm him.

The parallels are uncanny. I do not know if Gerarda Villa's 11-year search to right a wrong has impoverished her. But I do know that it has cost her a great deal in grief and lost opportunities. It takes dedication to do something like this for 11 years, and Ms Villa has shown dedication over and beyond the call of duty.

Like the family in "The Winslow Boy," she has embarked on an arduous quest, if not a near-impossible one. The members of Aquila Legis are not immune to suit, but they offer equally stout cultural barriers to it. They are at least beyond conviction en masse because it tarnishes the image of the school, the institution and the elite's moral right to rule. Worse, it impairs the future of "promising young men," who are bound to distinguish themselves in public life one day.

Ages ago, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of one young man accused of murdering his father's political rival, despite the preponderance of evidence against him. The ruling was based on the pragmatic calculation that the country would be unduly deprived to have that brilliant young man (who would go on to top the bar exams) jailed and denied a bright future. For the country's sake, the justices set him free. That man was Ferdinand Marcos.

It is something worth pondering. The people who murdered Lenny Villa, or who at least involuntarily (man)slaughtered him, were not members of an ordinary fraternity, they were members of a law fraternity, as profound a contradiction in terms as you can find. Their acquittal paves the way to their becoming lawyers—one finished fifth in the bar a couple of years ago—probably even legislators and justices. How they propose to grasp, let alone interpret, the meaning of justice, only they can say.

Like the family in "The Winslow Boy," Ms Villa has been turned into a nuisance. Or worse, in a monumentally ironic turn of events, into a harasser. In ruling in favor of the accused, Versola said his court would "not be swayed by the public outcry for revenge." Ah, but in this country, the dogged pursuit of redress for the death of a loved one has now become a cry for blood. That was what the Marcoses said too after they were toppled by an angry people: The effort to recover the things they stole was vindictive. The effort to make them pay for the people they tortured was spiteful. The effort to jail them was a cry for blood. Well, Ferdinand Marcos was an expert in law but an imbecile in justice.

And finally, like the family in "The Winslow Boy," Ms Villa has become someone who is presumably distracting the courts, the media and government from weighty matters with, in the grand scheme of things, a relatively inconsequential case. A view that is bound to find many sympathizers in these days when we commemorate a seemingly earthshaking event. Ah, but I do not know how we can believe that we can give justice to the many if we cannot give justice to one. I do not know how we can believe that we can reward the toil of the many if we cannot reward the toil of one. I do not know how we can realize the dreams of the many when we cannot comfort the heart of one. "What you do to the least of your brethren, you do unto me." That isn't just a cardinal principle of Christianity, that is a cardinal principle of democracy.

Happily, in the end, the family in "The Winslow Boy" wins. I can only most sincerely hope life imitates art.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Paranoia

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SENATE minority filed a resolution seeking the expulsion of Sen. Renc Cayetano whom they accused of allegedly having illegally profited from investments in Best World Resources a few years ago. It was the first time in Senate history that some senators sought a colleague's ouster. Cayetano presented evidence of payment to the tune of P9 million, as he lamented that the minority is persecuting him in a very personal way for his role in the Senate impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada.

I can see a pattern in the systematic discrediting of personalities who played a major role in that trial. But the minority resolution still leaves Cayetano—and the majority—in a Catch-22 situation. If the majority does not act on the resolution, Cayetano in effect will not get cleared; but if the majority calendars it for debate, it's going to be bloody for him, even though they have the numbers to keep him in the chamber.

* * *

The nervousness over the news that US forces will be arriving to help in the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan stems mainly from the recollection, still fresh in many minds after 40 years, of how the United States got mired in the Vietnam War after beginning as a mere group of "advisers" to the South Vietnamese army in the 1960s. The AFP leadership has taken pains to stress that the 160 or so Americans to be assigned in Basilan will not be combatants, but will serve merely as advisers to the Philippine military in the drive against the Abu Sayyaf, and that the majority of 600 or so US troops will be in Zamboanga City for the joint bi-annual "Balikatan" exercises. The military's admission that the exercises could drag from six months to a year has created anxieties that the US troops, who were driven out with the non-renewal of the bases treaty in 1991, are coming in through the backdoor and seeking a way to stay for good. This is made worse by talk that from Basilan, they would move to Luzon.

* * *

The old paranoia is back, negating whatever acceptance there may be of prospects that the Abu Sayyaf could be exterminated for good by superior US forces. In addition, the senators who approved the Visiting Forces Agreement the other year are now loudly denouncing the administration's move to let the US forces in, when all this could have been avoided if they didn't pass the VFA in the first place. To dispel valid fears, the Commander in Chief should spell out in no uncertain terms what the conditions and parameters are for letting the US forces take part in the Mindanao exercises. It is amazing what a frank and detailed explanation can do to sweep away the paranoia. It is helpful to note that there is little resistance to the US forces helping wipe out the Abu Sayyaf in the face of the local military's ineffectiveness. What's feared is what happens afterwards.

* * *

Spanish Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja gave a reception recently to celebrate the assumption by his country of the presidency of the Council of the European Union. The presidency is rotated every six months among member states and this is the second time Spain assumes it since 1995. This month is significant for 12 of the 15 member-states of the EU have just adopted the euro as a single currency. This has made things both easy (tourists now have to reckon with only one currency) and difficult (for the citizens who have to get used to it).

Pantoja pointed out that the EU has done a lot for the Philippines, such as giving some 372 million euros in development aid loans and grants, making it the second biggest source of bilateral aid after Japan. For 2001, the EU grants for 10 major bilateral projects total 165 euros.

* * *

One of the most generous in extending grants and aids to the Philippines is Spain, with projects ranging from the preservation of Vigan to a water system in Camiguin and the training of personnel in our National Archives on the restoration and preservation of documents. The Spanish envoy also said details still have to be fleshed out concerning the visit of President Macapagal to Spain perhaps later this year, and that King Juan Carlos and Spanish officials prefer to have her make a state visit instead of just an official or working visit. More work for the Spanish government, but more honors for Ms Macapagal. I teased Pantoja that Spain must be trying to make up for its many sins, and he riposted, yes, the sins of "your ancestors."

He was referring to a joke within my family about tracing our "roots" to the Conde Duque de Olivares, the finance minister of King Philip IV in the 18th century, whose giant portrait by Diego Velasquez hangs in the Prado Museum in Madrid. I had earlier related to Pantoja that doubtless as a form of colonial mentality, over the years every member of our huge clan who went to Madrid made it a point to look up that portrait and if possible, to visit the hilly, picturesque city of Olivares, some 30 km from Sevilla in the south. We loved to joke even to Spaniards about our roots, until one day a visiting Spanish lady told my brother Luis Jr., "If I were you I wouldn't be so fast in claiming relations with the count, as he had a notoriety of sorts in our history." My brother quickly told the rest of the clan and we stopped. But Ambassador Pantoja asked me the other night to tell the clan that he had checked this out and it seems that the only notoriety of Conde Duque de Olivares stemmed from his ways with women, "nothing political."

* * *

At the recent party given by my dear friends, Dr. Benito Reverente and his wife Tita, to celebrate Benny's turning 70, a group of ladies pirated Senate President Franklin Drilon away from his wife Mila so they could grill him on the burning issues of the day. We wanted to get the names of the "defectors" from the opposition, but Drilon only said the majority was still working on it.

One lady offered the observation that if a number of our officials are corrupt, especially on the local level, it's because of the never-ceasing demands of their constituents. To meet these demands, local officials do some hocus-pocus with their projects. Drilon said he couldn't agree more. In fact, he observed that the words "asphalt overlay" on many billboards announcing local public works projects are almost always a cue that the quality of the project is substandard. The Senate chief says he has learned his lesson from years of poring over the national budget in the Senate. Rather than contribute to projects of dubious quality and marred by corruption, he will henceforth put his CDFs in schoolbuildings all over the country alongside those being built by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce. He noted that the federation's classrooms cost only over P200,000 whereas those of the government cost nearly triple the amount.

When will you start kicking ass?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DEAR Ms President,

To return to your appearance at the third Philippine Forum last week. You allowed for two questions, and your replies explained much about your credibility problem even among those deemed to be your "natural constituency."

First, you were asked about two issues that participants believed to be key to the dispirited "mood" of the nation. One was the perception that there was "too much politicking" going on. The other was the behavior of the media that, by the choice of and play given to stories of destabilization might actually be destabilizing the country.

Your replies revealed that even at this pass, you are still primarily a politician, with a propensity for political strategies. On the issue of politicking, you rather flippantly replied that so many in the audience, especially the business leaders, contribute to the campaign coffers of politicians, and so they would be in a position to "tell your beneficiaries not to engage too much in politicking." You took the same tack on the matter of the media. Many in the audience, you said, are major advertisers, so they would be in a position to "tell editors that you would appreciate less sensationalism."

I'll react first to your reply on the media question. It struck me as particularly insensitive, given that your ousted predecessor had precisely attempted to mount (and did mount) an advertising boycott of this paper apparently to force it to its knees and halt its unfavorable coverage of his administration. To hear you espouse virtually the same tactic barely a year after Edsa II was, to say the least, disappointing.

As for politicking, I find it dismaying that to your mind the need for a responsible opposition, if that is what's needed to put an end to politicking, can be achieved by flexing patronage muscle. Should this be the mind-set of a President brought to office by "People Power" and supposedly espousing "moral authority" in government?

* * *

THE SECOND question put to you was on your policy on population, which so many among the participants said weighed heavily on the ability of the country to meet its development goals; and on your policy on the promotion of arts and culture.

Your reply on population set off echoes of the replies that former President Cory Aquino usually gave. Like her, you cited the right of every couple to determine their family size, and added that you were leaving it up to them to decide the family planning method they would use. All well and good, except that it signals a lukewarm attitude toward what so many well-meaning and concerned citizens consider a serious and urgent problem. Also, it's one thing for a couple or a woman to make a decision about fertility goals, but if they are not given the means to actualize that decision, then it holds no meaning or practicality.

On culture, you made much about your desire to promote what you called "mass culture," but said that out of respect for its authority you were leaving it to the Commission on Culture to determine how best to do it. A thought struck me. One of your first controversial acts as President was to fire the chair of the MTRCB over his refusal to rescind the permit given to a movie which some sectors deemed pornographic. I wonder what exactly you mean by promoting "mass culture," and if in your view the opinion of a few influentials is superior to both legal processes and popular opinion.

* * *

AS you were leaving the hall, artist Jim Paredes approached you to ask what you would do about former President Estrada and Nur Misuari, two prominent "guests" of the state who seem to be enjoying undeserved coddling, as well as the spate of kidnappings which the PNP seems powerless to halt. "In other words, Madam President, when will you start kicking ass?" Jim asked in both desperation and concern. And you said: "Whose ass?"

We know about the need to follow legal procedures, not to overplay your hand lest you be accused of "cooking" cases, especially against your predecessor. But could it not be possible for you to show a strong hand, especially toward the police, even as you respect the separation of powers? Businessmen who met yesterday, as well as some among the "Successor Generation," put it succinctly. Is the President leading or managing? Are you not forgetting the role of a leader beyond the management of the concerns of state?

* * *

PLEASE don't take us wrong. Your people appreciate all the hard work you have put into being President. There is no gainsaying the value of having a leader who "shows up." A President who displays an excellent work ethic, who wakes up early, faces each day's full calendar, looks upon the responsibility of meeting the challenges of governance and development as teamwork, puts faith in rational and orderly planning.

But why is it that despite our inclination to wish you well and rally round your cause, we find it difficult to commit our hearts, and not just our minds, to you? Erap, for all his shortcomings (and they were many) had the gift for winning hearts. You have gamely tried his tack, agreeing to be packaged as the common *tao's* "Ate Gloria." But still they—and even we—don't bite.

My own guess is that you were so rattled by the events of the May 1 march to Malacañang that in the months that followed you lost your natural gifts as a politician. Contrary to what others are saying, my own anniversary wish for you is that you find your moorings again, operating as both the canny politician you are, as well as the bearer of a historic opportunity that is handed only to a select few.

When comrades killed/tortured comrades

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THAT is not exactly a smooth title, but that is the most terse way to describe the personal account of Robert Francis B. Garcia on the bloody purge within the communist movement that saw comrades killing and torturing their own comrades.

Garcia chose a more compassionate-sounding title for his book: "To Suffer Thy Comrades" (Anvil). Only on the inside page does the subtitle ("How the Revolution Decimated Its Own") appear, which sounds tame after one has read Garcia and other survivors' personal accounts of their passage to the communist killing fields and beyond. But the staid cover hints loudly that there is blood on it.

One does not sense Garcia attempting to hold back. There is no attempt to sensationalize either. The material is sensational in itself, shocking, blood-curdling, to borrow words used to describe fiction. But fiction this isn't.

Garcia tells it like it is, in a stráightforward manner. It is a tearjerker, yes, but it is much more. It is devastating. How could it not be? Patricio N. Abinales of the academe, who wrote the intro ("Revolutions and their Tragedies") confessed in his first sentence: "The first time I read a draft of this manuscript I cried."

But unlike many accounts of cruelty, Garcia's story provides a bigger backdrop—ideological, political, psychological—in order to better situate this cruel chapter, this dirty secret, this shameful blemish on the revolutionary movement that fought to lead people to their version of the promised land.

Garcia starts off with his own tragic tale, his trek to the field of nightmares where he was forced to confess sins he did not commit. He also gives the reader an understanding of where he was coming from—his background, his dreams. Of his torture, he remembers well the details, the questions, the pain, his torturers (including a former nun). The first half of the book reads like a novel, rich in details and characterization.

"Others joined in the fray. I wasn't able to keep track of the hours of interrogation, but eventually I was brought, eyes glazed, body limp, to the 'detention center.' It was a stunning revelation: a virtual hornet's nest of comrades, many of my friends, many gifted cadres and brilliant fighters with such impeccable track records behind them—all chained up in their individual sleeping stretchers made of sewed rice sacks and wooden poles."

Garcia's ordeal was not the worst. The book includes the first-person accounts of those who suffered even more than he did. Many had to concoct confessions to satisfy their torturers until torturers became suspects themselves. In the end there was no way to get at the truth. There was only pain, death, confusion, bitterness and the ugly face of the revolution.

Garcia is brave enough to look back. While others might make a blur of everything to deaden their pain, Garcia goes back to where it all began and walks all the way to where it all ended, physically that is. For many who have not squarely confronted the past, the torture continues.

There were brave survivors like Lina. "There were freshly dug sites—ready for those who refuse to 'cooperate.' We were all chained together when we were brought there to face our prospective graves. At the *pen-pen* site, some were killed and some were spared... We were all asked to say our last words. Some shouted: 'Long live the CPP-NPA!' I uttered, 'History will tell the truth.' One of us was quite combative. He spat on the guards and tried to kick them. His neck took the first knife...

"One was strangled from behind using what they called the 'marine hold.' Once I looked away—I just heard the victim scream like a pig being butchered. He struggled for air. He was kicked down into the grave. His color was already darkened but he was still alive. His last words were: '*Maglagom kayo, mga kasama* (Comrades, learn your lessons)!' He was stabbed and his blood was smeared on my face."

"To Suffer Thy Comrades" is not all blood, gore, mud and tears—the hows. Much of it deals with the whys, why things turn ugly, even among those sworn to "serve the people." Garcia delves into the dynamics of the communist movement, its evolution, its leadership and the people who are inexorably drawn to it. He also provides "a schema of factors" that led to the violent purge. The purges known as *Kampanyang Ahos* and Operation Missing Link are tackled in the book.

All Garcia wanted at first was to tell a true-to-life story. But when he began work on his book, he wanted to satisfy a lot of people, among them, his academic colleagues who wanted something academic. The literati wanted a good story, something accessible. He ended up doing both a story and a study—a great combination—the latter buttressed by analyses of similar tragedies in other parts of the world.

But the victims of the carnage were Garcia's priority although he would not claim to speak for all of them. "I just had to take an initial step," he says, "albeit a painful one. For in the final analysis, I realized all I really had to satisfy was myself. My own peace. My own coming to terms and my own closure. It had never been easy. But nevertheless."

Garcia, now a program officer of the Asian-South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education, is blessed with the gift of words and memory and the courage to search for answers and healing.

Toward healing. Victims have gone their separate ways exorcising the past by their lonesome. Unlike the victims of military atrocities, these victims of "their own" have no support system. They grieve secretly, like victims of incest who would not want to expose their own.

Says Garcia: "The most significant act that the movement can do, not only for the sake of the victims but also for its own, is to publicly unburden itself of the offense... The Party should issue an official apology to all victims and others indirectly affected and undertake measures for indemnity."

'Namarie'

YOUNGBLOOD

Gabby Lee

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IN THE FIRST book of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings," there is a part where the Company of the Ring reaches the Golden Wood, Lothlorien, after passing through the Mines of Moria, an old Dwarf-kingdom now inhabited by Orcs and other foul creatures. They find themselves under the protection of the Lady of the Wood, the Elven queen Galadriel. Here in Lothlorien they rest, and under the golden leaves of *mallorn* trees, the members of the Company recover their strength and properly mourn the loss of their leader, the wizard Gandalf, who fell during the battle in the Mines.

Despite the peace that he found in Lothlorien, Frodo, the Ring-bearer, knows he must go on to fulfill the task given, a task he now realizes he must finish. The stay in Lothlorien is temporary, and so with a sadness known only by weary travelers, the Company departs from the haven of the Golden Wood, laden with gifts from the queen. As they floated down the river in boats given to them, Galadriel stands at the prow of her own boat, which is shaped like a swan, and sings the song "Namarie," which is Elvish for farewell. And Frodo, with a heavy heart, wonders disconsolately if he will ever see Lothlorien or its Lady again.

Of course, in the end, the Company will see Galadriel again, but unlike Frodo, I am not sure if I will ever venture again into the haven of the Golden Wood or look upon Galadriel's beauty again. "Namarie." Farewell.

My Golden Wood is the City of Davao, and Galadriel's beauty is mirrored in the faces of the people whose lives have touched mine in the brief span of a year that I have studied there. This has been unexpected, but looking back, Davao has been my haven, a land where I have learned to see the stars on a clear night, and listen to the songs of Elves.

At first, I resisted the idea of moving. It was February, the month before graduation, when I received the UP-CAT results. The UP System had placed me in the Creative Writing program in UP Mindanao. My first thought was, this is insane; nothing could be more catastrophic than this in the life of your typical Catholic private-school teenage girl who has lived in Manila all her life. But the lure of the State University was stronger, and I knew that, inevitably, I had to move there, no matter how hard it was to swallow the idea.

Thus in May last year, I packed my bags and left with my mother (who is the director of the Cultural Center of UP Mindanao) to a place that I had known only in stories and history books.

It was the Mines of Moria all over again. I ventured into the deepest, darkest caves of my own self, battling Orcs and Balrogs of my own devising: overwhelming loneliness and a fear of the unknown. I wandered, lost in a maze of newness—of language and landmarks, faces and shopping malls. And the temptation to break down, weep and cry like a baby, was as strong as the lure of putting on the Ring.

When school finally started, it became the faint light at the end of the caves. The journey through Moria was nearly over. And while there was no fire-wreathed figure of the Balrog looming over me as I raced across the final bridge and I didn't hear Gandalf's despairing cry, "Fly, you fools!" I still came out of the dark with tears in my eyes and a heart that was strangely light and heavy at the same time. Without even knowing it, I had stumbled from Moria into the woods of Lothlorien blindly, with *mallorn* leaves rustling softly above my head, and the soft petals of *elanor* and *niphrendil* beneath my feet.

Days passed swiftly. There was a peace that hung in the trees and in the very air that I breathed. I could not remember seeing the stars shining so brightly back home in Quezon City. The stars were framed only by leaves and the glow of the moon. The breeze, cool and crisp, brought a tang of distant mountains and seashores that I had only seen in my imagination: places of quiet, pristine beauty. I rediscovered how to smile after seeing the smiles of the people around me. The beauty of the Elves shimmered in their eyes.

During these times, I remembered the days leading up to high school graduation. They had been tense, fast-paced, with one emotion chasing the other in a whirlwind of my own making. And in the end, I cried, and it seemed that I would never laugh again.

Here in Davao, I rediscovered laughter and smiling, and I found myself, the person I always thought I could be but never had the chance.

But it was inevitable. These halcyon days are ending. Come March, I will be applying for transfer to UP Diliman, and pursue my degree there. This comes as no surprise to me. I am merely a hobbit with a mission, and I do not belong in the land of Elves. This is my appointed path. But that does not mean that I will not leave part of my heart in Davao, the part that has learned to laugh and weep with a cleanness, a purity brought on by the wind singing in the trees.

Even now, I can see the edges of the woods of Lothlorien vanish around the curve of the river, and Galadriel's voice echoing across the sun-dappled leaves, singing "Namarie." Farewell.

And then I hear her again, whispering so softly it might have been imagined. But I am not mistaken. She is saying, "Till we meet again."

Gabby Lee is turning 18 on Jan. 27. A freshman at UP Mindanao, she thinks she is a hobbit. But that is probably because of her height, she says.

THEY SAID

Anointment

"Only the Good Lord anoints people, not me. I am just a private citizen. The Lakas-NUCD-UMDP and Kampi will have an official candidate in the year 2004, *pero hindi ako iyon.*"
—Former President Fidel V. Ramos, reacting to reports that he might run again

Banned

"I recall to you, I was the only one who stood up in the Constitutional Commission to ask for a two-term presidency. I was voted out."
—Sen. Blas Ople, explaining the ban on presidential reelection

Fear of joblessness

"It's very difficult to work thinking that you could be the next person who will walk out of the station with nothing."
—An ABS-CBN talent for almost a decade on the company's recent laying off of 150 workers

Meaning of GNP

"For the majority of the Filipino people, growth in the GNP is a mere jargon that translates into an increase in Gutom na Pilipino."
—Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino president Victor Briz on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's recent "Ulat sa Bayan"

A peaceful place

"There are no car bombs going off in Bukidnon, there are no racial riots here and certainly there are no touring hooligans."
—Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri on the British Embassy's inclusion of Bukidnon in its latest travel advisory

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Crusade for change not yet over

LETTERS

EDSA II solved one big problem for us: it got rid of Joseph Estrada. But it also created a bigger problem: Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo lording it over the country in the same way as her predecessor.

The youths who stormed the streets last year were moved by the ideals of people power. We wanted justice, democracy and most of all a change in governance. What moved us to march in huge numbers was our sincere desire to see concrete reforms in our country. We lobbied for an increase in the education budget, a moratorium on tuition increases and wage increases for our parents.

Ms Macapagal simply shrugged off our demands. To put it bluntly, she failed to live up to the expectations of our people.

On the other hand, Ms Macapagal seemed to do well in the eyes of big business, military and foreign interests. In the past year, she succeeded in consolidating the support of the privileged few by giving them more concessions, even to the detriment of the poor majority.

When Ms Macapagal boasts of popular support from the students, she must be talking about the students of the Philippine Military Academy whom she first visited after becoming President. But not the Filipino students who marched with the people at Edsa and Mendiola to pave the way for her assumption of the presidency.

There is no reason for us to support this ungrateful administration. Not after Ms Macapagal left us to the mercy of greedy school owners during consultations on tuition increases. Not when we see that the budget for education continues to be inadequate and small compared to the allocations for foreign debt payment and the military.

If Ms Macapagal would think the abolition of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) was an achievement of her term, she should be quickly reminded that the ROTC was never abolished. It was only given a different name: the National Service Training Program (NSTP). Military training continues to be compulsory and, worse, even female students are required to take it.

The way our country is being governed today has led us to conclude that the crusade for meaningful changes in our country is not yet over. We failed to exorcise all the forces of evil last year. Our generation has witnessed the downfall of a dictator and a ruffian president. Now we have a chimera and sphinx-like President. Will we allow her to grow and spread destruction over our land?—**RAYMOND PALATINO, national president, National Union of Students of the Philippines, 13 San Vicente, SFDM, Quezon City**

Regulating ownership of dogs

I WISH to thank those who have expressed support for the ordinances I have proposed—allowing peace loving, responsible and licensed gun owners to be part of the Barangay Self-Defense Force engaged in dog-tagging and control of canines, ban of big trucks from the city streets and the ban on the practice of "labor only" contracting in the City of Manila.

Let me also thank even those who oppose these ordinances in the firm belief that each piece of legislation to be truly responsive to the needs of our community, rather than to the wants of legislators, should undergo the crucible of open, dynamic public discussion and debate.

The views expressed by Tina Testa of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society and Nadja S. Baseron of Malate, Manila, opposing my proposal on dog-tagging and regulation of stray canines, are helpful.

The Department of Health statistic showing a tremendous increase in rabies-related cases in the past few years is very alarming. Dogs are fast growing in number. In Manila, there are at least 150,000 dogs in the city with an estimated 300,000 households. You can see dogs roaming the streets of the city every minute. Where do these dogs urinate and defecate? You can often see them urinating against electric posts and concrete walls and disposing of their waste on the sidewalks and streets. These are additional problems in the maintenance of sanitation in the city. Oftentimes, dog waste are run over by vehicles that bring them to different places. Flies, viruses and germs transfer from one place to another as a result, affecting the health of our people.

Before this problem becomes serious, I am proposing to the City Council to regulate the ownership of dogs and to ensure the proper disposal of their waste.

I would like to inform Testa and Baseron that the city government is conducting an anti-rabies campaign, giving free anti-rabies vaccine to dog owners at the barangay level. But this is not enough. We have to regulate the ownership of dogs and also ensure the proper disposal of their waste.

I am willing to withdraw my proposal if Testa and Baseron can teach their dogs the proper practice of family planning and also the proper use of toilets and comfort rooms.—**JULIO E. LOGARTA, councilor, Sixth District, City of Manila**

'Tong reminders' on busy street

THE RECENT announcement of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. that traffic rules and regulations will be strictly enforced in "Traffic Discipline Zones" (PDI, 1/15/02) unwittingly reveals the ineptitude of the MMDA as an organization. It is an admission of a widely observable fact that the MMDA does not uniformly enforce the numerous laws and ordinances that it is mandated to implement.

Take the ease of the Katipunan-C-5 Highway (between Aurora Boulevard and P. Tuazon Street) in Quezon City. The MMDA has put up in this area several signboards saying that tricycles are prohibited along this major highway as per MMDA Ordinance No. 6. Despite this, numerous tricycle drivers belonging to Marikina's IVC Toda openly defy this ordinance, and they are tolerated and assisted by no other than MMDA personnel manning the area. No wonder some people are calling those signs "*tong* reminders."

Due to numerous accidents involving tricycles, some resulting in death, our community has written numerous letters to the MMDA to correct the situation. MMDA officials have only replied that tricycles are indeed prohibited from this area and that proper "instructions" will be made to correct the situation, but nothing concrete has been done to prevent them from plying this route. This endangers not just tricycle passengers but also thousands of other vehicles using this high-speed highway.

This has led many in our community to suspect that some MMDA personnel are financially benefiting from such inaction. Perhaps, Abalos would like to do an honest-to-goodness investigation of this continued and unabated mockery of law and include the area among the MMDA's "Traffic Discipline Zones."—**MICHAEL M. YU, chair, Industrial Valley Homeowners' Association Inc., Industrial Valley Subd., Marikina City**

AdBoard corrections on Ogami column

PLEASE allow us to react to Ramon Tulfo's column last Jan. 8 on the "Ogami affair."

The Advertising Board of the Philippines Inc. is not "a private association of advertising agencies." We are the umbrella organization supervising nine major associations engaged in the business of advertising, under the principle of industry self-regulation.

We did not order Genta Ogami or G. Cosmos "to stop advertising on TV and in the newspapers and to tear down his billboards." On the other hand, last September, three TV storyboards for G. Cosmos Philippines Inc. and a "Philippine Bank of Ogami" were presented to us by the Philippine Film Studios Inc., for screening. (The pre-screening of radio/TV commercials is one of our major functions. We check these materials to make sure they contain no element violative of our Code of Ethics.) We did not screen those materials, but instead asked the presentor to secure a clearance from the Securities and Exchange Commission as to the continued operations of Ogami. We also sought clarification from the SEC on the issue.

The SEC replied that a cease-and-desist order it had issued against G. Cosmos was still in effect. To date, we have not cleared any G. Cosmos or Ogami advertising material.

Billboards are not within our jurisdiction and, therefore, we could not have ordered the "tear(ing) down" of G. Cosmos billboards.

No one from Tulfo's staff called us regarding Ogami's billboards. Thus, Tulfo's statements saying, "The guy who answered the phone said the person handling the complaint against G. Cosmos Philippines was absent. And because the AdBoard guy was absent, its order to tear down the billboards could not be enforced," are completely false, and the expletives after the above statement are completely out of line!—**OSCAR T. VALENZUELA, executive director, Advertising Board of the Philippines Inc., Suite 6A, Dao 1 Condominium, 189 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City**

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Truly Asian, truly Filipino

MALAYSIA and Indonesia have launched impressive tourism advertising blitzes on international cable television channels. Malaysia uses the line, "Malaysia: Truly Asia," highlighting its multi-ethnic society. Indonesia's advertisements are more dramatic, emphasizing its natural attractions (12,000 islands) and also its multi-ethnicity (365 distinct cultures).

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

There's a bit of irony in the way these two countries use the multi-cultural pitch, considering the ethnic and racial strife that have plagued the two countries in the last 50 years. Yet, the advertising campaigns they've launched do show that their tourism authorities know their potential market. Serious tourists are interested in culture, and the more diverse a country is in their cultural fare, the greater the chances of bringing in a range of tourists.

Contrast our neighbors' campaigns with our latest attempt to bring in tourists: from Jan. 15 to 31 we're offering bargain sales in our malls and shopping centers, all part of a bit to become the "shopping capital of Asia." It's pathetic. It'll take much more than shopping to bring in tourists, especially if the shopping here is blighted by overcrowded malls, hard-sell hucksters and hawkers, traffic jams and cheating taxi drivers.

Malaysia and Indonesia are learning to appreciate their multi-cultural heritage while we remain captives of a colonial mentality, recreating America's malls to bring in tourists. We see this colonial mentality reflected even in what we have to offer to shoppers—the pitch with this January bargain sales is that we have everything here, including imported brand-name products. Some stores, like SM and Rustan's, will have a small Filipiniana section offering the *barong Tagalog* and a few handicrafts that hardly change year after year.

In contrast, Thailand and Indonesia have entire stores, the size of supermarkets, devoted to national handicrafts with many new products and designs coming up all the time. On Sundays, Bangkok's Chatuchak market is a sprawling bazaar, about the size of our Divisoria, offering an amazing variety of handicrafts besides other household items. Yes, we do have specialized handicraft outlets like Tesoro's and Silahis, but they still pale in comparison with other countries' handicraft centers.

What's important, too, is that in all these stores in Thailand and Indonesia, you will find many of the buyers are local people who do appreciate their own products. That comes with an appreciation of local cultures, something that we still need to develop in the Philippines.

Exemplifying the consequences of this lack of appreciation of local culture is the recent fiasco around Mercury Drugstore's 2002 calendars. In an earlier column, I mentioned that its cover page had "famous tourist spots in the Philippines" and included a mosque with the outrageous caption, "Islam Church where they worship Mohammed." Mercury has since withdrawn the calendar although there are still thousands circulating around.

Actually, the calendar was fatally flawed in many other ways. The captions were written in atrociously bad English with rather inane or inaccurate descriptions. For example, there was one picture showing a house in Batanes with this description: "Sturdy stone houses in which the Ivatan people of Batanes reside, strongly reflect their primitive lifestyle." I don't know if the writer even knows where Batanes is, and how these stone buildings—yes, they are sturdy—are in fact architectural feats, effectively protecting its inhabitants from the many typhoons that lash their islands each year. If you think about it, it's our houses in Manila—even the fancy expensive ones—that deserve the label of "primitive" since they are intolerably hot during the summer and, during the typhoon season, they turn into fragile matchbox structures that are easily flooded or swept away.

Mercury is one of the country's largest corporations so one would have expected more care in producing a calendar that's distributed in large numbers. But then the calendar is clearly intended as a marketing tool: it has coupons each month to entice people to buy more from the drugstore. The tourist attractions appear only on the cover page, to be torn off and discarded at the start of the year.

That's pretty symbolic of the way we look, or should I say, overlook Philippine culture in general. It's not surprising that the standard tours we offer our visitors consist of zipping them past a few of the landmarks before herding them into the malls, followed by a dinner with "*Tinikling*" dancers.

If we're to promote serious tourism, we have to show that we are proud of what we have, and, more importantly, that we understand the wealth of our own culture. There's a joke about a Filipino guide showing tourists a church. When someone asks how old the church is, the guide answers, "Oh very old. Pre-Hispanic."

But, you might say, we don't have temples and palaces like other Asian countries do. Admitted, but we forget we have many other attractions. Last year I spent an entire afternoon taking a Filipino-American friend on a four-hour walking tour. We started in Chinatown, walking the length of Ongpin out into Sta. Cruz and onwards to Quiapo, under the bridge. In between *merienda* and supper, a bit of shopping and a *visita iglesia* of sorts, I was pretty much able to explain Philippine culture and history, including its many paradoxes. (Yes, I did bring him to the places where they sell pirated CDs and goats' eyelashes and medicinal plants.) On the way home, I pointed out the run-down Metropolitan Theater and the demolished jai-alai fronton, both fine examples of art deco relegated to oblivion.

I mentioned the Malaysian theme "Truly Asian" because I think, we too, can boast of being Asian in a multicultural way, including the way we try to blend, with mixed results, the Western with what's Asian, and Filipino. We can't go world-class, in tourism or other ventures, unless we acknowledge and build from all our sources—Spanish, American, Chinese, Indian on equal footing with all our local cultures, from the Ivatan in Batanes to the Tausug in Sulu and Tawi-tawi.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

RETURN TO WORK ORDER

TO: All employees of Nestlé Cabuyao Factory

RE: Labor Dispute at Nestlé Cabuyao Factory

Please be informed that on 16 January 2002, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) through the Honorable Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas, issued in the above entitled case a Return To Work Order, the dispositive portion of which reads as follows:

*" **WHEREFORE**, consistent with our 12 (sic) November 2001 assuming jurisdiction over the dispute and enjoining any strike or lockout, all striking workers are directed to return-to-work within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of this Order and Nestlé Philippines, Inc. is directed to accept all returning workers under the same terms and conditions prevailing prior to the strike.*

The parties are again hereby directed to cease and desist from committing any act that might lead to the further deterioration of the situation.

Finally, the parties are directed to submit their position paper within ten (10) days from receipt hereof.

SO ORDERED."

In compliance therewith, ALL employees from Nestlé Cabuyao Factory are instructed to report to their usual shift schedule, without prejudice to whatever action that the Company may take against those who violated the Assumption Order dated 29 November 2001 issued by the Honorable DOLE Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas.

Please be guided accordingly.

Nestlé Philippines, Inc.

Postal rates raised without notice

ALL my letters and cards addressed to friends and relatives in the United States and some European countries were returned to me recently by the post office. I was informed, through a handwritten note on the envelopes, that the postage was short by P7. This means that mail for the United States and Europe now costs P22 per 20 grams, instead of P15.

I am not questioning the increase in postage for overseas mail. What I cannot accept is that the post office did not inform the public, say, through the newspapers about the increase in rates.

Every morning, I read the INQUIRER and the Philippine Star, but I have not come across any news item or notice saying that overseas mailing rates had been increased from P15 to P22 per 20 grams. I called up the post office and its Quezon City unit informed me that the rates were increased starting Dec. 1. When I asked in what newspaper this was published, I was rudely told to call up the Department of Transportation and Communications. Calling the latter was futile since nobody answered the telephone.

I decided to go to the Cubao post office at 2 p.m. to buy additional stamps and to inquire about the details of the increase in postage. To my surprise, the Cubao post office near the COD Department Store was closed. There was a notice saying that it would be open only up to 12 noon since it would be holding a Christmas party in the afternoon. I was also told by the sidewalk vendors that a VIP would address the postal officials and employees during the afternoon Christmas party.

Since when did government offices close during working hours just so they could hold a Christmas party? To me, the postal service is just as important as power and water utility services. But I couldn't get this essential service in the afternoon of a regular working day. Why could they not have scheduled their Christmas party on Dec. 16 or 23, a Sunday, or on Dec. 17, a special holiday?

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should crack the whip on the postal bureau and clean up this important office.—**LEONCIO DE MESA, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

American Taliban faces life in prison

WASHINGTON—John Walker Lindh, the 20-year-old Californian who fought with the Taliban in Afghanistan, was charged with conspiracy to kill US citizens. He will be tried in a civilian court and could face life in prison.

After weeks of deliberations, the administration of President George W. Bush opted against a military trial or charges that would carry the death penalty.

Lindh, who converted to Islam at 16 and is alleged to have trained at an al-Qaida camp in Afghanistan, was charged in a criminal complaint filed in US District Court in Alexandria, Virginia. He will be transferred from a US military ship for trial in the United States.

LINDH: He knew Bin Laden

Attorney General John Ashcroft said Tuesday that Lindh admitted in interviews with the FBI that he met Osama bin Laden and knew Bin Laden had ordered the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

"He chose to embrace fanatics, and his allegiance to those terrorists never faltered," Ashcroft said. "Terrorists did not compel John Walker Lindh to join them. John Walker Lindh chose terrorists."

Lindh learned in early June that Bin Laden had sent people to the United States to carry out suicide operations, according to an FBI affidavit. The document described an odyssey that began with Walker's conversion to Islam in 1997, later training in Pakistan and Afghanistan and a decision last year to join the Taliban.

Friends have described Lindh as an intelligent young man who wore full-length robes to high school and went by the name "Suleyman" after his conversion to Islam. After his capture in December, his parents, Marilyn Walker and Frank Lindh, had asked the public to withhold judgment about their son.

On Tuesday, Lindh's separated parents and James Brosnahan, their San Francisco-based lawyer, accused the government of denying Lindh mail from his parents and refusing to let him see a lawyer during 45 days of interrogation.

In announcing the charges, Ashcroft said the prisoner waived his right to consult a lawyer.

"We now hope that we will see our son soon and give him the love and support he needs," Walker and the elder Lindh said in a statement distributed by a public relations firm. *AP*

9-11 victims condole with counterparts in Afghanistan

KABUL—A group of grieving Americans who lost relatives in the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes in the United States came face-to-face Wednesday with the bitter realities of the retaliatory US bombings in Afghanistan.

Sitting cross-legged in a small room that presently serves as a shelter for three siblings who lost their home and most of their family to a wayward bomb, the four US citizens said they hoped to bring the plight of innocent victims of the bombardments to the attention of the US government.

Mohammad Rahaf, 26, his brother Aziz Ullah, 13, and sister Sabera, 9, lost their mother, grandmother, brother, sister and brother-in-law when US bombers scored a direct hit on their home in the Qala-e-Zaman Khan district of Kabul.

Three bombs were dropped in the area aimed at military targets of the now-ousted Taliban regime, but all fell wide.

Rahaf said he and Sabera were away when one of the bombs blasted their family home at noon "about two months ago," while Aziz was outside washing the car.

Shocked, grieving and with all their possessions destroyed, they have since then been relying on kindly neighbors to shelter and feed them.

Music professor Derrill Bodley, from California, told the three victims that he had lost his daughter Deora in the Sept. 11 terrorist atrocities.

Deora had been on United Airlines Flight 93, which was apparently destined to be smashed into the White House when passengers overpowered the hijackers, causing the aircraft to plough into the earth and kill all on board.

"They have suffered over many years," Bodley said, referring to the fact the three siblings also lost their father two years ago and were in fact refugees from northern Afghanistan who came to Kabul several years ago to escape fighting there.

"I have suffered since Sept. 11," he said.

Another of the Americans, Rita Laser, 70, whose brother died on the 24th floor of the World Trade Center, told the three they had specifically come to Afghanistan to listen to the stories of innocent victims of the bombings "and then go back to the United States and tell the people there."

"We hope," she added, "that we can get our government to help you."

Rahaf estimated the cost of rebuilding their home at $10,000, but said even $2,000 would allow them to build a simple structure.

He told the Americans: "We are sorry to hear about your losses. We are also victims. Our house has been destroyed, we have lost our family, I have no job and we don't know what we can do."

The Americans handed over a soccer ball to Aziz and a dress suit to Sabera, who accepted it shyly.

Kelly Campbell, sister-in-law of Craig Amundson who was killed in the attack on the Pentagon, told the children her mother was a teacher and that children in her class had sent photos on red cardboard cut-out hearts.

Handing over two hearts, she said: "The American children want the Afghan children to know that they care." *AFP*

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Brendo Zapanta, a man of faith.

If you would only believe

Mr. Brendo Zapanta didn't have an easy life. He came from a poor family in San Juan. Christmas for them did not mean gifts, new clothes or new shoes.

What he remembers vividly though is how very religious his mother was. She used to go to church in Baclaran and crawl on her knees to pray for Brendo who was very sickly as a child. Raising her offsprings as a single parent, his mother, according to Brendo, was resolute in her convictions: "Kahit anong mangyari, hindi tayo magnanakaw o magkakasala para lang sa pera."

With a small sari-sari store which he helped manage, Brendo would accept typing jobs after school. He put himself through college by working in the morning and going to school at night at the Jose Rizal College in Mandaluyong. "Prayer made all the difference in my life. Before you call on anybody else, call on Him first. There's no doubt He will solve any problem. As I always say, 'Jesus, I trust in you and the blessings you will bestow one day.' "

And the blessings did come.

Zapanta got promoted from distributing clerk to supervisor in the bank where he worked. He got through the difficult times by saving for the future and not living beyond his means. He is now a 46-year-old businessman who is married to a bank manager in Escolta with whom he has three children: Kristina, 13; Miguel, 12 and Patrizia Anne, 8. He is proud that he now has more time for them. "They are my most valuable possessions," he emphasizes. "Ang pinakamasarap na parte ng araw ko eh yung pagod ako at biglang lalapit sa akin ang bunso ko upang maglambing, 'Kawawa naman daddy ko... Gusto mo ng hug?' " Mr. Zapanta says he values such moments especially because "wala akong nakagisnang ganoon habang lumalaki ako."

The education of his children always comes first. "Hindi pwede mag TV hangga't hindi tapos mag-aral. At pagdating sa paggastos, kung para sa edukasyon nila, no questions. Pero kung hindi, kailangan pagusapan. Kasi alam ko kung gaano kaimportante ang edukasyon sa pagangat mo sa buhay."

No matter how much or how little he has, Mr. Zapanta makes it a point to give from what he gets. "Hindi ko matiis yung mga bata sa kalye. Dati nagbibigay ako ng coins sa kanila; ngayon, since alam ko pwede nila itong gamitin sa rugby, biscuits na lang ang ibinibigay ko. Tuwing nakikita ko sila, naaalala ko ang paghihirap na dinanas ko. Kung ako nga nahirapan, sila pa kaya na mas naghihikahos kaysa sa akin?"

"Kaya't dapat talagang ipagpasalamat ang patuloy na pagpapala ng Panginoon..."

Mr. Zapanta had been praying a Novena to the Mother of Perpetual Help in Baclaran and to the Black Nazarene of Quiapo - religious practices which he says he inherited from his mother - when on the 7th week a blessing came: he went to Family First to listen to a sales presentation. The date was 7 September 2001. It was the presentation that became instrumental for him to win the house and lot raffled off in Family First's "Libreng Bahay, Bagong Buhay" Grand Raffle Draw last 23 December.

And to think that Mr. Brendo Zapanta won the Santarosa Estates house and lot without getting a plan from Family First. He is, until now, not a planowner. "...and the only reason I didn't get a plan is that it is not tucked into our annual budget."

Mr. Zapanta admitted he was initially doubtful of Family First, "You might not believe it but I purposely went to Family First to sort of investigate, given the many things that I have heard. Hindi kasi ako yung tipo na basta naniniwala sa hearsay. Basta nga may kontrobersiya about something, nag-re-research ako on my own to experience it firsthand."

"I really suggest that people find out about Family First for themselves. Because look at me now, I have a new house! A house I can pass on to my children and my children's children. And the only thing I did was BELIEVE."

Mr. & Mrs. Brendo and Emy Zapanta (4th and 5th from left) receive the symbolic key to their new house and lot. They are flanked by (from left) Family First's National Customer Service Manager Aurora Diño, Group Sales Manager Levi Lacdao, Marketing Manager Tzarina Saldaña and Promotions Supervisor Zeigfried Dimaano.

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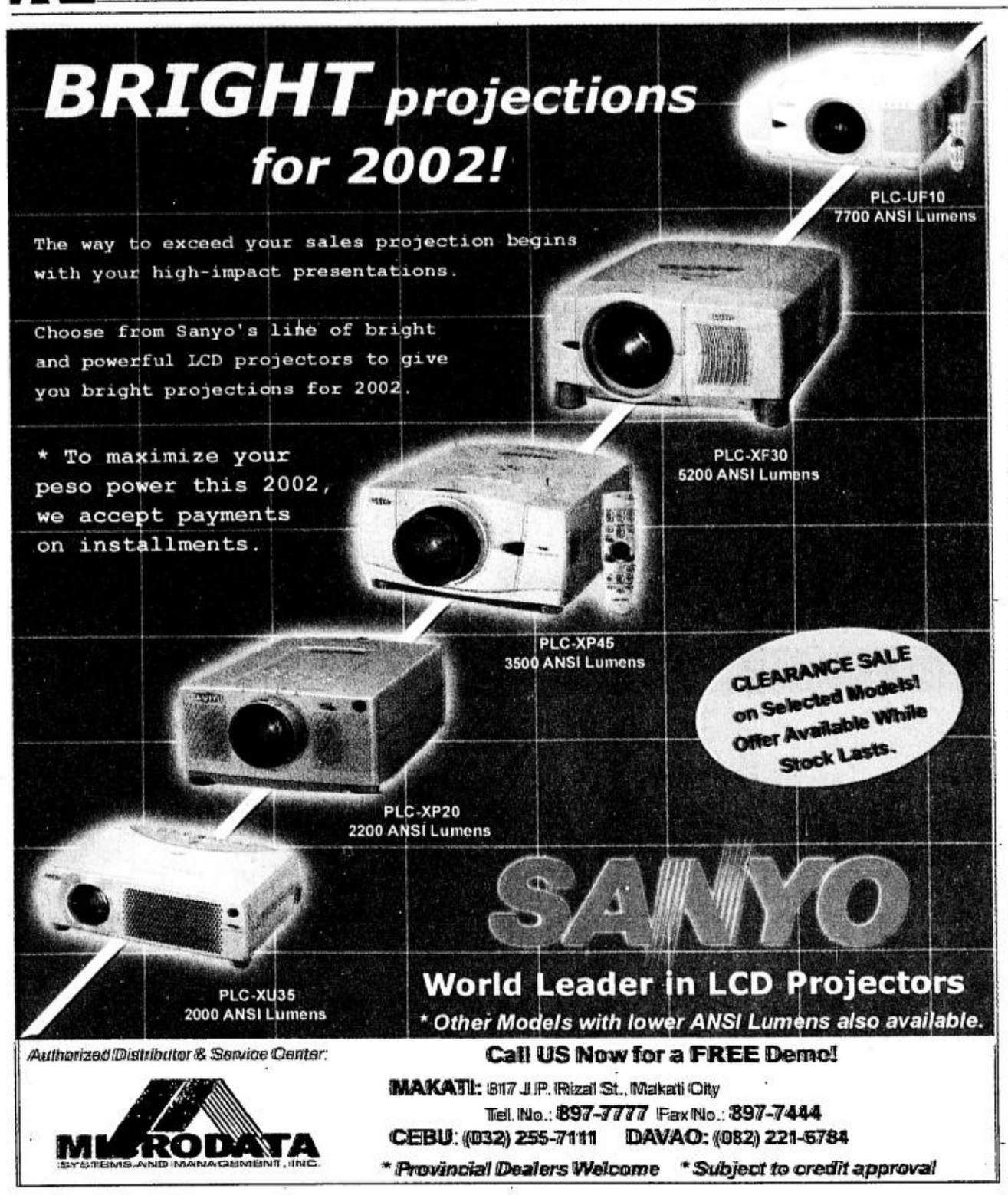

Argentine rioters vent ire on banks

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Popular fury over stringent banking restrictions has boiled over as enraged Argentines stormed banks and destroyed cash machines to protest the government restrictions penning up their savings.

The rising anger came as President Eduardo Duhalde promised to ease the 6-week-old banking freeze first imposed by Fernando de la Rua last month to stem a run on the banks that threatened the country's fragile banking system.

But the widespread anger was evidence that social tensions are still running high in this troubled South American country, the region's second-largest economy.

In three cities in Argentina's interior, hundreds of Argentines ransacked banks, ripping out computers and smashing windows—including at international banks like Citibank and BankBoston.

"I put my money in the bank as a safeguard, not to have it confiscated by crooked politicians who've dug us in this hole," said Sergio Alcon, a 36-year-old dentist, marching alongside thousands of small business owners and real-estate agents protesting the banking freeze in Buenos Aires.

Many complained that the deep restrictions had paralyzed their businesses, and they called on the government to free up people's access to their money to get the economy moving again.

Thousands of jobless Argentines joined the scattered protests Tuesday, demanding jobs and calling on the nearly bankrupt government to bolster social programs at a time when nearly one in five Argentines is without work.

But it was the banks that felt the brunt of the social discontent on Tuesday. The banking freeze triggered deadly street riots last month that forced Fernando de la Rua to resign. Duhalde, meanwhile, has called them a "time bomb that will explode if we don't carefully dismantle it."

After taking office as Argentina's fifth president in a month, Duhalde further tightened access to dollar accounts last week. Argentines hold $46 billion, or 72 percent of all deposits, in such accounts.

The limits mean Argentines who have their wages directly deposited in banks can only withdraw 1,500 pesos monthly—now about $1,070. Those with ordinary checking accounts can withdraw 1,200 pesos monthly, or about $850.

In the central province of Santa Fe, some 7,000 demonstrators took to the streets of the city of Casilda, hurling eggs at the banks. Riot police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. A small core of violent protesters threw rocks through bank windows, set fires and vandalized ATM machines.

Argentines also unleashed their anger at banks in the cities of La Plata, where they set fire to ATM machines, and in Salvador de Jujuy, where they ripped out computers, trashed offices and smashed windows in three bank branches, including Citibank and BankBoston outlets.

Duhalde said the restrictions were meant to protect regular Argentines, not just the banks.

"The people can believe that we are defending the banks, but we are defending the savings of the people," he said. The International Monetary Fund closed off the spigot of bailout funds last month, leaving the country to default and devalue the peso, which for nearly 11 years was pegged one-to-one with the dollar.

A fact-finding IMF mission is in Buenos Aires. But Duhalde has said Argentina would only seek emergency funds once it has developed a clear economic program to rescue the country from four years of recession.

"We will go with our own plan, our own project, our own model, which we believe foreign lenders will agree to," Duhalde said after a top economy ministry official berated the IMF this past weekend for its criticism of Argentine economic policies.

Among the new steps, Duhalde said, would be a move to float the peso on the open market within five months. The peso is now set to an official rate of P1.40 to the dollar, but mainly for foreign trade. For ordinary Argentines, the peso on the open market floats, hovering at 1.90 to the dollar.

Duhalde said he was leaving decisions on economic recovery to his finance team, while he focused on the deteriorating social situation that he likened to a "depression."

"We feel like we are in a swamp," he said. "And we still don't know if we've hit bottom yet. This country seems to be sinking—but not because of a great accident like the Titanic, but because everything is a mess." *AP*

FLOGGING WAIVED

S'pore OKs graffiti in skateboard park

SINGAPORE—Singapore is well-known for caning graffiti vandals, but this famously tidy city-state now has a place where rogue painters can spray away.

Wild, spray-painted scrawls and vivid blobs of blue and red abstracts festoon the ramps, floor and signs at a government-run skateboarders' park in the middle of an otherwise graffiti-free city.

Singapore's caning-for-graffiti rule made world headlines in 1994 when American teenager Michael Fay, convicted of spray-painting cars in the island republic, was flogged despite objections from then-US President Bill Clinton.

But the National Youth Council is letting the painters do their thing at its skateboard park, a council spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Singapore does, however, insist on limits.

"We monitor it closely. Currently we just allow healthy, creative expression to take place," said Corinne Kang, head of the council's corporate communications department.

Vulgarities are off limits, along with anything religious or remarks that "might be offensive to anybody," she said.

Officers check the graffiti daily and clean up anything deemed offensive, she added.

The park, in Singapore's ritzy Orchard Road shopping and hotel district, stands out in this sprawling city of leafy boulevards, gleaming skyscrapers and shopping malls, all with virtually no trace of the graffiti found in most of the world's modern urban centers.

Defacing public property in Singapore is punishable by a fine of 2,000 Singaporean dollars, up to three years in jail and a maximum of eight strokes of the cane, according to Singapore's Straits Times newspaper.

Various other infractions, including some drug and sex crimes, can also be punished by caning.

Offenders are strapped to a wooden frame and lashed across the bare buttocks with a rattan rod. *AP*

Department of Agrarian Reform
Adjudication Board (DARAB)
Annex Bldg., DAR Central Office Cmpd., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a Resolution in **DARAB Case No. 4721** (Reg. Case No. 00873-SNE-95) entitled **ANTONIO RAZON versus SPS. ARSENIO P. SANTOS, JR. and CYNTHIA VILLAR SANTOS** was promulgated by the DAR Adjudication Board, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City on July 16, 2001.

Counsels and parties to this case particularly **Antonio Razon** whose last known address was in **Mabini Extension, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija** are hereby advised to get a copy of the said decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of the posting of this notice, without any Petition for Review being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision to this case shall become final and executory.

January 14, 2002. Diliman, Quezon City

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

January 17 & 24, 2002 – Inquirer

Suspected killer of minister detained

RAMALLAH, West Bank—In a move that appeared to be aimed at defusing spiraling tensions, Palestinian security forces Tuesday detained the leader of a Palestinian faction that had claimed responsibility for the assassination of an Israeli Cabinet minister.

The move came just hours after gunmen shot and killed two Israelis in the West Bank; a 72-year-old Israeli-American man shopping for building supplies and a 45-year-old Israeli woman driving to a wedding.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders said they hadn't abandoned an informal ceasefire that's been in place for the past month—the least violent period in nearly 16 months of Mideast violence. But a recent spate of killings have inflamed tensions.

The detention of Ahmed Saadat, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine appeared to be aimed at calming the situation.

The PFLP claimed responsibility for the October assassination of Israeli Cabinet Minister Rehavam Zeevi and Israel had said it would not lift its travel restrictions on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat until Saadat was in detention. Arafat has been confined to the town of Ramallah for more than a month.

Saadat's deputy, Abdel Rahim Mallouh, said Saadat was detained during a meeting with an official of the Palestinian Authority.

"This is a political action, which has very dangerous political consequences," Mallouh said. "We consider this a response that they have accepted all American pressure and Israeli demands." *AP*

El Niño return forecast

CANBERRA, Australia—Australian and New Zealand scientists on Wednesday joined US colleagues in suggesting the Pacific region could be facing another bout of El Niño.

El Niño is a massive climate event across the Pacific that causes a sustained warming of a large part of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

It is associated with increased rainfall across the east-central and eastern Pacific and with drier than normal conditions and sometimes severe drought over northern Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The last, in 1997-1998, was blamed for searing droughts in Australia, the Philippines and Indonesia, and floods in Peru and Ecuador.

A report issued by Australia's National Climate Center (NCC) said five of its available 12 predictive computer models were pointing toward an El Niño developing between April and July.

Senior meteorologist Grant Beard said it would be some months before it was clear whether Australia faced an El Niño.

"So we'll be monitoring the situation very closely, and it's just a matter of how things pan out in the Pacific in the March to May period," he told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

In New Zealand, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) said some weather models suggested El Niño might reappear within three to six months, but others were contradictory.

"We are saying there are indications. The situation should be clearer around April," NIWA climate scientist Jim Salinger said Wednesday.

Last week the federal Climate Prediction Center in the United States said there were early signs that another El Niño could be forming. *AP*

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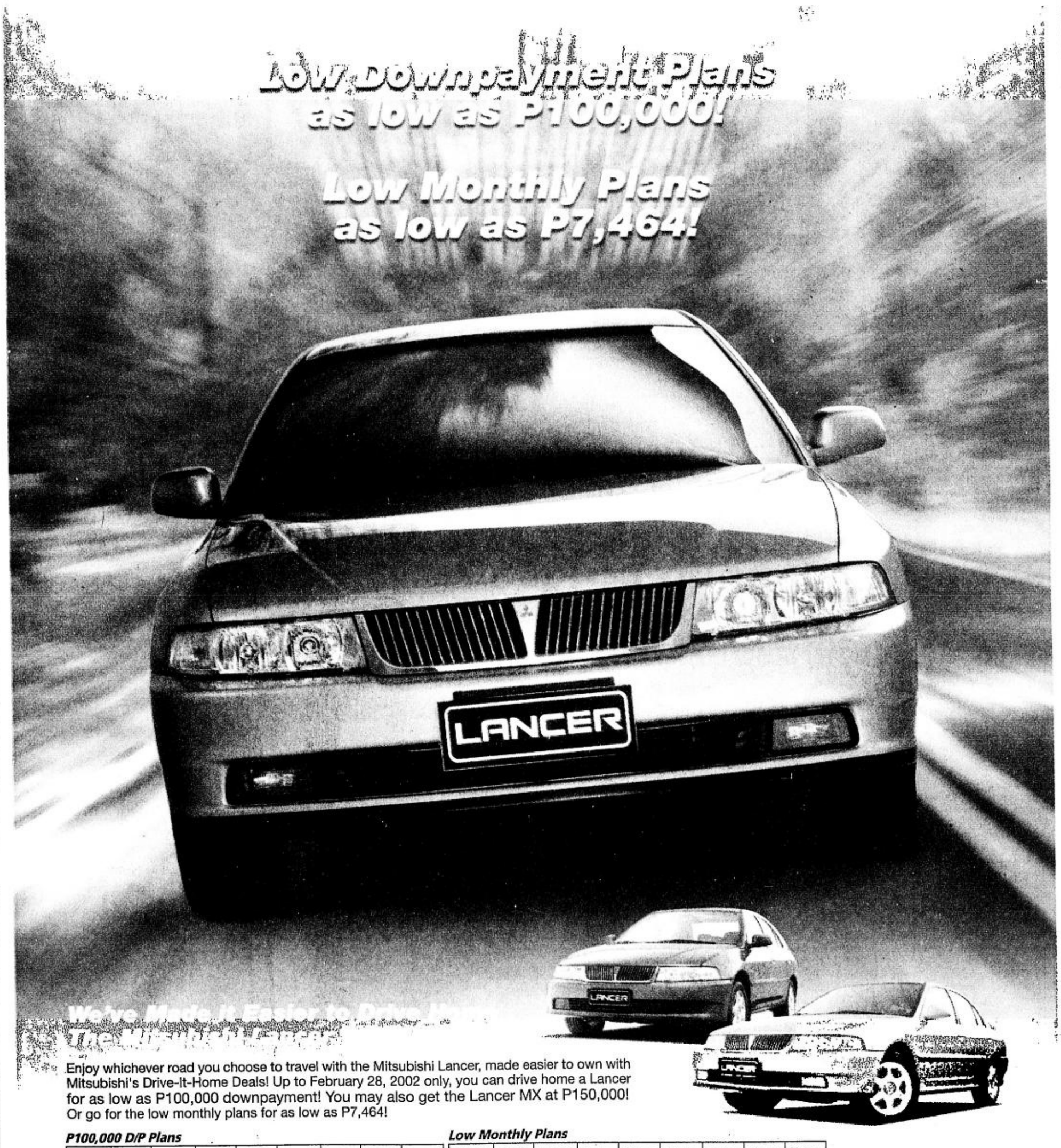

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GLS A/T	710,000		51,644	35,654	28,367	20,281	16,431	14,383

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GLS A/T	710,000	355,000	31,468	21,725	17,293	12,364	10,017	8,768
MX	790,000	395,000	35,014	24,173	19,242	13,757	11,145	9,756

*All Plans Subject to Bank Approval

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Rare disease not so rare in Iloilo

By MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The death of a 14-year-old boy blamed on a rare disorder has turned the spotlight on a village in southern Iloilo where he and two other patients came from.

The three were all diagnosed by private physicians as having Guillain-Barrè (ghee-yan bah-ray) Syndrome (GBS).

Carmen Bayate, provincial health officer, said, however, the diagnosis could not be considered conclusive in the absence of findings by government doctors.

According to data gathered from the Website of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) of the United States, GBS "is a disorder in which the body's immune system attacks part of the peripheral nervous system."

It is characterized by the rapid onset of weakness and paralysis of the legs, arms, muscles and face.

Doctors could not explain what causes GBS, but it is often preceded by a viral infection like influenza. There is also no known cure for GBS.

All three patients diagnosed with GBS came from Barangay Damilisan, three kilometers from the town center of Miagao, 40 km southwest of Iloilo City.

Medical practitioners from the provincial health office have visited the village to collect data and medical records of patients. Their findings would be released late this week, Bayate said.

Leo Mondejar Jr., 14, died of GBS on Jan. 8. Two other residents, a 14-year-old girl and a 59-year-old man, who were also reported to have been stricken by GBS, were confined early this month at the St. Paul's Hospital in this city. They have since returned to their village and have been undergoing rehabilitation.

Neurologist Dr. Delma Franco, who runs a private clinic here and handles the case of the 14-year-old girl, said the symptoms included varying degrees of weakness or tingling sensations in both legs, and weakness and abnormal sensations spreading to the arms and upper extremities.

Franco said GBS could affect anybody regardless of age, ethnicity and sex.

The NINDS said the illness was rare, afflicting only about one person in every 100,000 in the US.

But Franco said GBS was not rare in Iloilo because she has had two to three patients every year since she started her practice in 1996.

Franco said that while there was no known cure for GBS, a remedy is possible if the disease is diagnosed early. GBS is treated by intravenous immunoglobulin, which is a dose of proteins, and a blood cleansing procedure known as plasmapheresis, she said.

GBS is considered life threatening because it is expensive to treat. A patient may be put on a respirator but they can be "rehabilitated," Franco said.

A vial of intravenous immunoglobulin costs P25,000. Usually, a patient needs two vials a day and the length of therapy depends on how well a patient responds, according to Dr. Agnes Gerasmo, a family physician who hails from Miagao and is a relative of all three GBS patients.

Plasmapheresis is an expensive medical method by which blood is removed from the body and processed so that the red and white blood cells are separated from the plasma, or liquid portion of the blood.

Gerasmo met with her neighbors and asked them to watch out for GBS symptoms. She also asked them to observe proper hygiene and have a balanced diet so that they can avoid getting afflicted with flu, which was found to precede GBS.

Gerasmo said she also asked the residents of the village not to panic because if detected early, a GBS patient could be saved.

Blood trail could solve Cebu killing

CEBU CITY—Bloodstains were found in the city home of former Dinagat, Surigao Vice Mayor Ruben Ecleo Jr. when police investigators searched the place Monday afternoon.

Ruben, son of Surigao Rep. Glenda Ecleo, is the prime suspect in the murder of his wife, Alona Bacolod.

The body of Alona, 27, was found on Jan. 8 in a black garbage bag dumped in a slope in Barangay Coro, Dalaguete town.

She was a graduating medical student at the Southwestern University.

Police said they were gathering other pieces of evidence to support their theory that it was Ruben who killed his wife.

According to Enrique Lacerna, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief investigator, the bloodstains indicated that there had been violence in the house in Forest Hills, Banawa.

The bloodstains were mainly found in the couple's bedroom. Blood spots were found in the shower curtain inside the toilet, on a mint green doormat and on a doorknob, which was detached from the bathroom door.

Policemen also discovered a blue bloodstained bed sheet in the laundry area.

Earlier, police found bloodstains in the trunk of Alona's car, a red Toyota Corolla with license plate No. GKK 286.

The items taken from the Ecleo home were brought to the PNP Crime Laboratory for tests to determine if the stains were that of a human blood.

Dr. Nestor Sator, PNP Crime Laboratory head, said that if it is human blood, they would have to test it to find out if it was Alona's.

But the DNA testing would have to be done in Manila, said Sator.

The probers also took a rolled packaging tape with hair strands, pictures of the couple, cut telephone wires, hypo-allergenic tape and a logbook.

The logbook contained the names of Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association Inc. (PBMAI) members who visited Ruben in his house. Ruben was the supreme master of the PBMAI, a religious group founded by his father, Ruben Ecleo Sr.

Josebil Bacolod, younger brother of Alona, executed a sworn statement before the CIDG and said he saw Ruben and his bodyguard Juryven Padero together on the evening of Jan. 5.

Josebil said he saw them helping one another load a black garbage bag into the red Toyota Corolla's trunk.

Lacerna said Josebil described the same garbage bag which was found in the town of Dalaguete.

He also told members of the media that Josebil's statement corroborates the statements of five other witnesses who had also executed affidavits.

Lacerna said that although circumstantial evidence was strong to support a complaint of parricide against Ruben, the CIDG could not yet file a case in court.

They were still expecting more witnesses to come out in the open.

Alona was buried on Tuesday at the Queen City Memorial Garden. *Debra Jane Magallon, PDI Visayas Bureau*

JUNGLE BASE
Supply is delivered by helicopter to soldiers who took over a former Abu Sayyaf lair in Basilan. The face of the war against the bandits who were found to have links with the al-Qaida network would soon change with the entry of US troopers.
DENNIS SABANGAN

GMA orders DOT to promote N. Luzon tourism

ILAGAN, Isabela—President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon to promote the tourism potentials of Isabela's beaches, Ifugao's rice terraces and Kalinga's whitewater rafting areas by including these in his department's tourism modules.

Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. said Ms Macapagal's "verbal order" to Gordon was announced after the President's visit to the coastal towns of Divilacan and Maconacon last week.

The President distributed land certificates and gift packs to residents in the towns.

Dy said the President has directed the Department of Tourism and local governments to develop the tourism areas of Isabela, Ifugao and Kalinga to improve tourism-related activities in these provinces.

In a press conference during the visit, Ms Macapagal promised to pour in more funds for the development of ecotourism spots in the country.

Isabela leaders are pursuing the Coastal Isabela Industrial and Tourism Estates (CIITE), a plan for infrastructure and investment projects in the province.

Dy presented the plan to the President during her visit. He said Ms Macapagal was also amazed on learning firsthand that the coastal towns of Palanan, Maconacon, Divilacan and Dinapigue are teeming with waterfalls, beaches, virgin forests, corals, coves, mangrove forests, wildlife and rich marine resources.

But Dy said the President was surprised why these natural spots were not being tapped for their tourism potentials.

"The President was surprised on the beauty of the coastal towns but asked why these were left untapped and developed for tourism," Dy said.

The CIITE seeks to develop a road network from Isabela's major towns, an adequate power and communication facilities, a housing community, a four-kilometer runway that could accommodate big planes, a port that will handle equipment, a 500-meter wharf extension, a hotel and a golf course.

The four coastal towns of Isabela can only be reached by small planes or by boats through the Pacific Ocean as these are separated from the major towns by the Sierra Madre mountain range.

Gordon has also asked officials of the capital town of Ilagan to design a tourism module where the town's natural spots will be featured.

The town has the Sta. Victoria Caves, the Pinzal Falls, a crocodile sanctuary and the Abuan and Bintacan rivers that could be developed into a whitewater rafting spot, said Ilagan Mayor Delfinito Albano.

Gordon said that despite the vast tourism potentials of Ilagan, a tourism package to promote the town's attractions has never been made.

"You know that tourists are not coming to a certain place without knowing how much they would spend. The longer the tourists stay, the longer (a town) makes money. So there is also a need for infrastructure development," he said. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Agri funds for 112 Central Luzon towns delayed

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—All 112 towns in Central Luzon have not yet received the bulk of the P1 million pledged to each of them for 210 farming projects, a report obtained by the INQUIRER showed.

Each of the municipal governments received only P150,000 last November to start up the projects. This could delay the government's promise of creating jobs for the country's agricultural sector, the report said.

The balance of P850,000 or a total of P95.2 million, which was supposed to be given out in December last year, was not released.

Pepito de Dote, agriculture regional director, confirmed the delay of the fund releases, tracing this to the non-availability of cash from the Department of Budget and Management.

Without giving a specific schedule, De Dote assured the release of funds within the year.

"Definitely, the funds are coming because these have been obligated since last year," he said.

Obligated funds are those approved for inclusion in the department's budget. These are expected to be released to the beneficiaries of the budget.

The INQUIRER uncovered the delay after it corroborated with at least five Pampanga mayors the report on the accomplishments attained under the P1-million DA-local government units program.

"In order to achieve this goal of creating one million jobs, the department has implemented the P1 million DA-LGU program with a total of 210 projects worth P175.546 million, and created 6,380 jobs benefiting 112 municipalities," the report's executive summary said.

This appeared in the 2001 yearend report of the regional DA.

The report did not intend to mislead or claim false feats, according to Eduardo Gonzales, the DA's regional technical chief.

". . . those 210 projects have already been started because we have released the mobilization funds. The P175 million has been obligated and the jobs for rural folk are actually in place," Gonzales said.

All five mayors reported that the projects, mainly on rice and corn farming, were just in the initial phases and their sustainability was uncertain because the bulk of the funds have yet to be released.

The actual status of the other projects was not known.

De Dote said the DA was "certainly going to see the full implementation of these projects because we'd like to sustain the agricultural development of Central Luzon." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Death toll in jet crash rises to 7

CABANATUAN CITY—The death toll in the Tuesday crash of a Philippine Air Force trainer jet here rose to seven while the number of the injured increased to 26, according to reports gathered by the INQUIRER.

Supt. Laverne Manangbao, police director here, said the charred body of Leonora Binene, 31, was found Monday night in the debris of her burned house in Barangay M.S. Garcia.

Also found were the remains of First Lt. Raymund Brian de Guzman, the plane's co-pilot.

De Guzman, 28, was a son of retired PAF Col. Romeo de Guzman of Parañaque City.

Retrieved earlier from the crash site were the bodies of First Lt. Leo Maurice Ramos, 29, pilot; Pedro Acosta, 37; Maning Apostol, 78; Evelyn (not Belen) del Moro, 40; and Rosalie Mamaclay (not Ramos as earlier reported), 32, all of Barangay M.S. Garcia.

Manangbao said five of the injured were brought to the city hospital while the rest were sent home after being given treatment for slight injuries.

None of those confined was in serious condition.

Also burned were three motorcycles, a private jeep, and a passenger jeep parked in front of the burned houses.

Brig. Gen. Paulito Durano, chief of the PAF 5th Fighter Wing, the command to which the pilots belonged, met with Gov. Tomas Joson III on Tuesday and extended the PAF's apology for the "unfortunate incident."

Durano assured assistance to those who were hurt by and suffered damages from the crash. He and Joson visited the injured residents at the hospital.

Durano did not hide his sorrow over the fate of the young pilots.

"It is unfortunate that this happened. Their wives are both on the family way," Durano said.

De Guzman and his wife are expecting their first baby this February, he said. The wife of Ramos is three months pregnant with their second child. The couple's first-born, a boy, is a year old, it was learned.

The remains of Ramos and De Guzman were flown to the Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga, on Tuesday afternoon.

Durano described the two men as "*tahimik* (quiet)" and "committed to the ideals of the Air Force."

The wake for Ramos will be held at the Basa Air Base where his family lives. De Guzman's remains will be taken to Villamor Air Base.

The cause of the crash of the two-seat plane was not yet known and Durano said it might take some time to determine it.

Reports here indicated that the jet, a two-seater S-211 trainer plane which left Basa Air Base at 1:18 p.m. Monday, was noticed to be flying very low as it circled above the business and residential areas of this city.

It was on its third pass above the National Food Authority Compound here when some residents noticed it plummeting to the residential area at Purok Dos in Barangay M.S. Garcia. *Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience coudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 16°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/01/17/02

ANTI-DRUG EXECUTIONS

Bishop demands probe of Surigao Sur killings

TANDAG, Surigao del Sur—Bishop Nerio Ochimar of the Archdiocese of Tandag asked police to investigate and unmask those who were behind the summary executions of suspected drug pushers and users here.

Since August last year, gunmen suspected to be members of an anti-drug vigilante group have shot and killed at least 10 people.

The latest victim was a suspected pusher, who was gunned down in downtown Tandag on Tuesday last week.

Ochimar urged the police to immediately tap its intelligence resources so that people behind the "arbitrary executions" would be identified and charged.

"We condemn the killings. They (police) should identify the perpetrators to give the victims' families justice," Bishop Ochimar told the INQUIRER.

Supt. Edgar Deramas, police provincial director, said there was no vigilante group operating in the province.

He, however, admitted that the police had no idea yet as to the identities of the killers, but said the executions could be part of a "cleansing process" by a local drug syndicate.

A local government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he suspected that top local officials were behind the killings.

"It could be (part of) the war against drugs," the source said.

The governor, in an earlier interview, said he personally favored such vigilante actions because of the "ineffectivity" of the local police in ending the drug menace.

"The existence of shabu is very alarming. We must do something," he said.

In Davao del Sur, Digos City Mayor Arsenio Latasa warned drug pushers and users to stop the trade.

"You have only two options, either jail or death," Latasa said.

Although he denied any involvement in the Digos Death Squad, a vigilante group patterned after an anti-drugs group in Davao City, Latasa admitted that the killings in the city since last year had helped the fight against drugs.

Close to 20 people, suspected to have ties with drug groups, have been killed by alleged vigilantes since May last year.

But he quickly said the police have been doing its job.

He cited as accomplishment the arrest of suspected pushers.

"Cases are now pending in court while some of those identified by the police have left the city . . . maybe afraid they might die," Latasa said.

He also denied that part of the P200 million annual budget of Digos City was used to fund the DDS. *Franklin Caliguid and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Far Eastern University
Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation

at 50

"Continuing Dedication and Responsiveness"

MESSAGES

Warmest felicitations to the Far Eastern University - Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Institute of Medicine on its *Golden Anniversary*.

I congratulate the FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine for its fifty years of meritorious achievements and unwavering commitment in providing quality medical education. Your determination to mold competent medical professionals imbued with the ideals of public service and social responsibility is laudable. The tradition of excellence and leadership that distinguishes your medical school is a source of pride and inspiration as you work for the progress of the nation.

The theme *"FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine at 50 - Continuing Dedication and Responsiveness"*, underscores your determination to improve the relevance and quality of medical education to promote a better future for the nation. The strategic partnership of the government and FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine provides impetus and dynamism to our common pursuit of excellence in the medical profession, quality health care and a better quality of life for all Filipinos. The noble services provided by medical practitioners from your medical school hasten our country's healing and rebuilding process.

As we continue to steer our nation towards growth and progress, I urge the FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine to be at the forefront in supporting our government achieve its development goals for the nation.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

I would like to convey my sincerest congratulations to the administration, faculty, students and staff of the Institute of Medicine of the Far Eastern University-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation as you celebrate your 50th anniversary.

Reaching half a century of developing generations after generations of well-trained health professionals imbued with the Hippocratic values is a singular feat worthy of recognition. Your institution stands as a beacon of hope for many aspiring doctors who look up to your standards of quality in medical education. Reaching fifty years also presents a golden opportunity to look back and reflect on the gains that your institution has achieved and its significant contributions to nation building.

Your theme, *"FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine at 50-Continuing Dedication and Responsiveness"* captures the fervor and the dynamism that propels your institution to provide excellent medical instruction as well as vigor and altruism to address the challenges that beset our country today.

Responsiveness to the changing and growing health care needs of the Filipino people remain as an important parameter in measuring the relevance of an institution vis-a-vis the development of its educational systems and processes.

It is my fervent hope that FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine will continue to outdo itself in producing fine and highly principled medical professionals who will provide competent and compassionate care to many of our fellow Filipinos and reach out to the poorest and the most underserved sectors of our society.

Again, congratulations and *Mabuhay!*

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

In behalf of the Association of Philippine Medical College Foundation, Inc., I wish to convey my warmest greetings and salutations to the Far Eastern University - Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation on the occasion of their golden anniversary. Fifty years of existence is no mean feat but fifty years of dedicated service to the Filipino people by way of producing competent and caring physicians to look after their health needs certainly is cause for much rejoicing not only among FEU community but the entire country as well.

Your commitment to medical education by way of creative innovations and the elevation of its standards is an inspiration to us in the medical academe.

We look forward to another 50 years of your "continuing dedication and responsiveness" to the medical profession and Filipino people.

LOURDES M. MANALO, M.D., DPBA, FPSP
President, Association of the Philippine
Medical College of Foundation, Inc.

On behalf of the Professional Regulation Commission, may I convey my deepest congratulations to the Institute of Medicine of the Far Eastern University-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation on the occasion of its 50th founding anniversary.

I congratulate the Institute for its meritorious achievements and contributions to the advancement of medical education in the Philippines. This historical milestone brings to light the years that saw the emergence of a strong medical foundation which, for the past 50 years, has unceasingly promoted quality and relevant medical education and has constantly produced able and competent medical practitioners for the country.

You have for this occasion a most appropriate theme, *"FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine at 50-Continuing Dedication and Responsiveness"* as it underscores the call for a strong and steadfast medical institution whose dedication to promote academic excellence is founded on its awareness and responsiveness to the continuing challenges of the times.

As we move on to the 21st century, changes are occurring at an accelerating rate. Medical education today has to be transformed to become more relevant and responsive to the needs of globalization and the IT revolution. Educational institutions are thus compelled to nurture and produce globally competitive individuals whose skills and competencies match what the industry needs and demands at these times. I am therefore heartened to see that you have committed yourselves to carry out this task.

Indeed, the Institute has gone a long way and I fervently hope that the succeeding years will be even more glorious as you strive to maintain your distinctive position among the finest medical schools in the country.

More power!

ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE
Chairperson

Our warmest felicitations to the administrators, faculty, staff, students and alumni of the Far Eastern University-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation (FEU-NRMF) on the occasion of your 50th foundation anniversary in January 2002.

Your anniversary theme "FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine at 50 - Continuing Dedication and Responsiveness" underscores FEU-NRMF's commitment to intensify her effort to provide quality and relevant education to her students. Indeed, the FEU-NRMF has been constant in her endeavor to provide her students with quality health education and has produced numerous graduates who are now leaders and practitioners in the field of medicine.

The Commission of Higher Education congratulate the FEU-NRMF community for being steadfast in carrying out its mission and objectives. We hope that in the coming years, the Institute will be able to intensify the use of new education technologies to further improve the teaching and learning process.

MABUHAY!

ESTER A. GARCIA
Chairperson
Commission on Higher Education

We cannot help but feel elated at reaching this important milestone in the history of the Institute of Medicine.

Fifty years ago, when the Board of Trustees of Far Eastern University approved the establishment of the Institute of Medicine, its first Dean, Dr. Lauro H. Panganiban recommended as the first chairpersons of the basic sciences and clinical departments, alumni of the University of the Philippines and the University of Sto. Tomas. Today, we feel proud that we can be counted with these two universities as one of the excellent medical schools of the country, especially having been granted "deregulated status" by the Commission on Higher Education in recent months. Special mention has to be made of Dr. Ricardo L. Alfonso who dedicated the greater part of his life in exemplary service to this institution. We honor the memory of these pioneers, whose names figure prominently in the annals of their respective fields, for laying the groundwork in our continuing efforts for academic excellence.

We have reaped a golden harvest of thousands of doctors who chose FEU-NRMF as their Alma Mater. They now minister to the health and medical needs of our fellowmen here in our country and in many parts of the world. We would like to think that their achievements are a measure of the success of the Institute of Medicine's mission.

Throughout these fifty years, numerous men and women - deans, heads of departments, faculty and support staff-have given their best towards the realization of the goals of the Institute. I ask all those still serving the Institute to join me in directing our sights to continuing dedication to noble ideals and values and responsiveness to the needs of our fellowmen and the times.

Praise and thank the Lord for His blessings!

JOSEPHINE C. REYES
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Our warmest greetings and sincere congratulations to our beloved FEU-NRMF on the occasion of its *50th anniversary* on January 17, 2002.

This celebration will help us recall the glorious past of our school, its achievements, to look forward to the future, and to prepare us for the challenges that lie ahead.

Our vision is to keep our school as a center of excellence in producing competent health providers through quality medical and health teaching and training, in providing quality patient care and in pursuing relevant research to further improve health care management in our country. Let us all strive to bring this vision to a step closer to fruition.

There are many reasons for us to celebrate on the 50th year of our school. But as we celebrate, let us not forget to thank God Almighty for all the blessings He has showered upon our beloved FEU-NRMF.

We pray that the Lord will always clothe us with an iron-clad determination to relentlessly pursue our vision of a brighter future for our FEU-NRMF.

FLORDELIZA M. BALTAZAR, MD, FPOGS
Dean, Institute of Medicine, FEU-NRMF

Timeline

1952
- FEU Institute of Medicine was established
- Dr. Nicanor Reyes was President and Founder
- Don Jose Cojuanco was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of FEU
- Dr. Lauro Panganiban was first Dean

1957
- The first class of FEU Institute of Medicine graduated

1960
- The School of Medical Technology was established

1963
- The first batch of the School of Medical Technology graduated

1970
- The FEU Institute of Medicine and Hospital became a non-stock, non-profit institution known as FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine
- Dr. Nicanor Reyes, Jr. was President of FEU and Chairman of the Board of Trustees

1973
- Classes from the old and new curriculum graduated

1981
- Two buildings for the Institute and Hospital were purchased from the Far Eastern University
- One third of the cost was donated by the American Chapter of FEU Alumni Association

1982
- Dr. Nicanor Reyes, Jr. died. Mrs. Josephine C. Reyes, wife of Dr. Nicanor Reyes was elected chairman of FEU-NRMF

1983
- Classes of the Institute of Medicine and School of Medical Technology opened in the newly bought buildings.

1986
- The FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine was awarded the highest accreditation by the Philippine Board of Medical Education and APMC-"Center for Excellence in Medical Education."

1993
- PCHRD and DOST awarded the FEU-NRMF – IM P2.6 research project known as "Synthesis, Physico Chemical and Biological characterization of Immunoliposomes for Tumor Cell Surface Antigen-Directed Delivery on Anti-Cancer Drug: Liprolong"
- Mycobacterium Research Laboratory was also awarded by PCHRD

1995
- FEU NRMF purchased and acquired 1 ½ heclares of land at Regalado St., West Fairview, Quezon City for its relocation program
- School of Medical Technology was awarded by CHED "Center of Excellence in Education"

1996
- The School of Physical Therapy was opened
- The architectural plans of the new physical plant were completed
- Ceremonial ground breaking for the new physical plant was held on December 22, 1996.

1999
- The Medical School and Medical Center were almost completed
- The classes for the semester of school year 1999-2000 were held at the new site in Q.C.
- The First Class of the School of Physical Therapy graduated

2001
- Formal Inauguration of FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine at Fairview, Quezon City
- The Most Reverend Bishop Nestor Carino officiated the ceremonies
- Former President Corazon Aquino was Guest of Honor

2002
- The Golden Anniversary of Far Eastern University – Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Institute of Medicine

Achievements

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE:

Number of Graduates	10,990 (1956-2001)
Number of Board Topnotchers	142 (1971-2001
August, 2001 Medical Board Examination Topnotcher:	
4th place ..... Dr. Gerson A. Criste	86.72%

SCHOOL OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY:

Number of Graduates	9,141 (1963-2001)
Number of Board Topnotchers	291 (1974-2001)
March, 2001 Medical Technology Board Topnotchers:	
2nd place ..... Chrislynn M. Violago	87.50%]
5th place ..... Adolf Que Lim-Teodoro	86.90%
7th place ..... Philip G. Manalo	86.40%
8th place ..... Jeffry C. Gallardo	85.80%
9th place ..... Normel C. Adarve	85.50%
10th place ..... Michael Pol U. Bueno	85.30%
Percentage passing 93.88%	Rank: 2nd
September, 2001 Medical Technology Board Topnotchers:	
6th place ..... Angela Marie L. Cheong	86.90%
10th place ..... Manuel L. Perez	86.50%
Percentage passing: 93%	Rank: 3rd

SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL THERAPY:

Number of Graduates	236 (1999-2001)
Number of Board Topnotchers	14 (1999-2001)
August, 2001 Physical Therapy Board Topnotchers:	
1st place ..... Elizabeth Asuncion	85.25%
6th place ..... Marie Grace Gozar	84.30%
7th place ..... Eileen Abique	84.20%
Ruel Makahilig	84.20%
12th place ..... Irmina Verzosa	83.60%
15th place ..... Lilibeth Acosta	83.10%
18th place ..... Rhianne Trias	82.80%
Percentage passing: 96%	Rank: 2nd

Courses offered

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

Program of Activities

January 17, 2002

a.m. 6:00 - Lakad sa Kalusugan
8:00 - Holy mass
5th floor, Multipurpose Hall
9:00 - Opening of Commercial Exhibits
9:10 - Opening of Commercial Exhibits
9:30 - Registration/Election
5th floor Multipurpose
10:00 - 24th Lauro H. Panganiban Memorial Lecture
5th floor Multipurpose
Speaker: Renato R. Ramos, MD
12:00 - Lunch and visit to the exhibits

p.m. 1:30 - Students' Achievement Award
Service Award
3:00 - Sports Fest

FEU-NRMF
Regalado Ave., West Fairview Q.C. 1118
Tel. No. 427-02-13
E-mail: fmb@feu-nrmf.com

FLORDELIZA M. BALTAZAR, M.D.
Dean, FEU Institute of Medicine
Faculty, 45 years
"My tremendous love for teaching has kept me here. I will serve for as long as I am needed."

LILIA P. LUNA, M.D.
Medical Director, FEU-NRMF Hospital
Faculty, 37 years
"It is fulfilling vocation in life that is devoted to training young people interested in the art and practice of medicine"

LIBERATO C. DE LA ROSA, M.D.
Assistant Dean, FEU Institute of Medicine
Faculty, 23 years
"I am happy teaching here. It gladdens the heart to see my students graduate to become successful colleagues."

REMEDIOS MAGKASI, M.D.
Former Chairman, Department of Pathology
Faculty, 38 years
"Each batch of students is a challenge. The quality and potential of students makes it so. Being a part of the basic departments, I feel it is my responsibility to prepare them for clinical practice. The institute also has given me the chance to improve myself. The administration is quite supportive."

LUZ CONTEMPRATE
Faculty-employee, 29 years
"The Institute feels like one family. There is a strong camaraderie among the administration, faculty and employees."

EVELYN V. LLAUDERES
Registrar
Employee, 20 years
"Very varied and fulfilling plus the sense of belonging that FEU-NRMF community offers is very strong."

FLOR GALENO
Admissions Office
Employee, 19 years
"I feel happy working in the Institute of Medicine, even if at times the work load is heavy. It is fun interacting with the students."

NELA C. PORCIUNCULA, M.D.
Chairman, Department of Physiology
Faculty, 20 years
"The Lord must have a reason for putting me here. I want to think that I can help make a difference in the formation of future doctors."

LUCILA PAGLINAWAN
Faculty-employee, 28 years
"My second family is here. The people are simple and down-to-earth. Everyone treats everybody with equal respect, regardless of rank."

ESTANISLAO C. HONRADE
Supply and Property Officer
Employee, 28 years
"Working in the Institute is a continuous challenge. I enjoy it because it is multi-faceted which involves interacting with different people - the administration, faculty, employee and students. The work here has also provided security for my family as well as health care for all employees."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Head, Sch. of Physical Therapy

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Finance Officer, FEU-NRMF-Finance

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Azora B. Capuchino, M.D.
Dept. of Ophthalmology

Reynaldo B. De Vega, M.D.
Dept. of Child Health

Cesar V. Villafuerte
Dept. of Otorhinolaryngology

Policarpio B. Joves, JR. M.D.
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Dept. of Pathology & Lab Diagnosis

Edgardo D. Mendoza, M.D.
Dept. of Human Structural Biology

Remedios T. Habacon, M.D.
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Trinidad E. Madrigal, M.D.
Dept. of Medicine

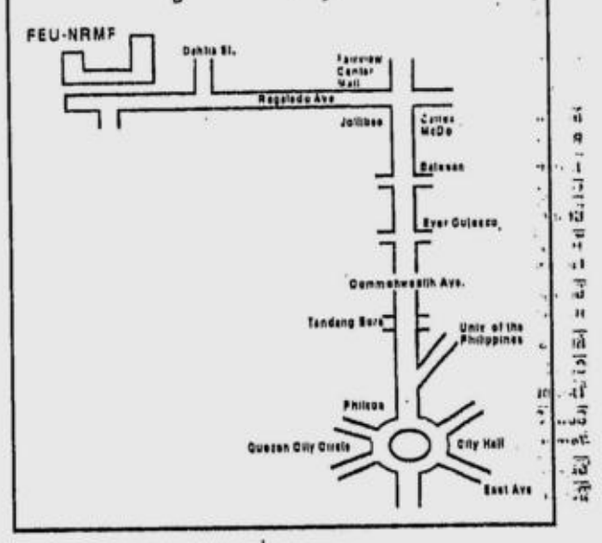
Nela C. Porciuncula, M.D.
Dept. of Physiology

Liberato C. De La Rosa, M.D.
Dept. of Microbiology & Parasitology

Kim Shi C. Tan, M.D.
Dept. of Surgery

Evelyn P. Palaypayon, M.D.
Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynecology

Vicinity Map



'We have to crush Osama's local allies'

(From page A1)

that the American troops would only be "observing our soldiers from the back."

"The American forces will not be joining combat," the President said, noting the training was no different than previous annual joint military exercises—only that the "curriculum and location have changed."

Ms Macapagal said Manila has committed to crush Osama bin Laden's local allies in its backyard as part of the US-led global war on terrorism.

"Our enemy is the Abu Sayyaf, who are international terrorists. They are not only an internal threat, they are an international threat," she said.

Ms Macapagal noted that Indonesian authorities were also investigating a prominent Muslim militant's possible links to Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Singapore and Malaysia are also looking into the links of scores of suspected terrorists to the al-Qaida.

In Washington, US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Tuesday confirmed that US troops were arriving in the Philippines to train and support Filipino troops fighting the Abu Sayyaf.

"The Philippine government and the United States have had discussions about the terrorist problem that exists there, and as we have done with dozens of countries around the world we're providing the kinds of assistance that we can," Rumsfeld told reporters.

He mentioned no specific number, but Philippine officials earlier said that 660 American soldiers, including 160 US Army special forces, would take part in the joint exercise dubbed "Kalayaan-Aguila 2002."

Other officials

Other government officials, including Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Parouk Hussin, also defended the participation of US troops in the operation against the Abu Sayyaf.

Hussin, who also heads the Moro National Liberation Front that has forged a peace pact with the government, said there was "nothing new" in the exercise.

"So it's not surprising if they (US soldiers) should come here to aid the military in the war against the Abu Sayyaf because it's a terrorist group," he said.

Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for Mindanao, said the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty allowed the presence of US troops in the country as part of "logistical support."

According to him, the Visiting Forces Agreement spells out how US soldiers should conduct themselves during the maneuvers, including defending themselves when attacked.

"Of course, a soldier is allowed to defend himself. It's part of the rules of engagement," Dureza said.

"That's the problem, apprehensions get the better of us. But nothing's happening yet," he added.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., chair of the House defense committee, expressed all-out support to the US troops.

"The US forces are here without violating the Constitution and I fully support their presence here. It's a valid exercise and we should welcome it," Pichay said.

Teehankee

At the justice department, Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee said Filipinos should not be overly concerned that war games would violate the Constitution.

"We are allies and partners of the US and I think we should focus on the global effort and war against terrorism," Teehankee said.

"I don't think that at this point we should be very concerned with sovereignty issues especially in this day and age when the community of nations are solidly acting together to combat any form of global terrorism," he added.

Even so, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes stressed Wednesday that the joint training was "legal because it is being conducted under the Mutual Defense Treaty" forged in 1951.

Reyes rejected opposition charges that the public was being kept in the dark.

"We have been very transparent about this," he said. "What we said is what it is."

Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, training director for the 1,200 Filipino troops taking part in the exercises, said the training should be "mutually beneficial" for both armies because "in the recent past, America has not had an opportunity to apply their (military) doctrines."

A-Teams

Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff, said three C-130s and seven helicopters would support the American contingent.

According to Abaya, 160 members of the US special forces will be divided into 12 A-teams and deployed in different Philippine battalions during the exercise.

"This is a training exercise and the best way to exercise your soldiers is doing it on site rather than doing it in the classroom," he said.

Abaya also said there would be no nightlife for the American soldiers as they would be restricted to barracks at night.

"The US side has agreed on this setup because there will be security problems if they roamed around Zamboanga," he said.

The presence of US troops in the past had been blamed for the proliferation of prostitution in the country. *With reports from Volt Contreras, Blanche S. Rivera, Martin P. Marfil, AP and AFP*

Guingona kept in dark on RP-US pact

(From page A1)

soldiers in the country.

Malacañang has cited the MDT and the VFA as the bases for the US involvement.

"What could happen is an actual combat mission and that is not included either in the MDT or VFA," the DFA source explained to the INQUIRER.

Guingona pointed out that details of the training exercise are being determined by the MDT which is under the Department of National Defense.

Guingona also pointed out that should questions be raised over the legality of US participation in the rescue of the Abu Sayyaf hostages, this should be resolved by "Congress or some other agency independent of Malacañang."

Until he gets a full briefing, Guingona hinted that the DFA could do nothing but go along with the President's decision to hold the annual military exercise called "Balikatan (Kalayaan Aguila-2002)" for the first in a combat zone in Mindanao.

Bypassed

Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta raised the question that Guingona may have been bypassed by Malacañang because of "his record as a staunch anti-bases advocate who voted 10 years ago for the abrogation of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement."

With Guingona, one of the "Magnificent 12" senators who voted in 1991 to reject the extension of the US military bases in the country, Tañada said he was disappointed that "President Macapagal's not leveling with the people."

"They're speaking in different voices and making the people confused," he added.

The government had said the US troops were here for joint military exercises with their Filipino counterparts. Later, military officials said that the troops would directly participate in the rescue of Martin and Gracia Burnham, the American hostages and Filipino nurse, Deborah Yap, being held by the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

"Next, they say they would help eliminate the Abu Sayyaf problem. Then (DFA) Undersecretary (Lauro) Baja is saying that there is yet no agreement and there must be an agreement to allow the US presence but that this is not yet shown to them," Tañada said.

Last November during Ms Macapagal's working visit to the United States, Guingona had said that an MLSA was being drafted between the Philippines and the United States. But Ms Macapagal countered that any agreement would not include the stationing of US servicemen in the Philippines.

Why the secrecy?

In the Senate, Sen. Sergio Osmeña voiced his concern: "Why all the secrecy?" He demanded an intelligence briefing for the Senate, the treaty-ratifying body.

Senate Defense committee vice chair, Rodolfo Biazon, former chief of staff of the Armed Forces, said the presence of US servicemen in combat areas, the use of live ammunition by them as well as the length of their exercise were all unprecedented.

The military had said the training would last from six months to a year.

Senate, House to probe Balikatan

In a Senate resolution, Biazon urged the committees on foreign relations and national defense and security to probe the ongoing joint military exercises.

According to Biazon, the continued stay of the US forces and their direct involvement in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf terrorists, and later possibly, the New People's Army, could be a violation of the Constitution.

Article of the Constitution bans the presence of foreign bases and troops unless under a treaty ratified by the Senate.

Former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile likened the Basilan training to the despatch by then US President John F. Kennedy of US military advisers in South Vietnam that later led to massive commitments of US combat troops.

Crossing partylines, 11 congressmen also asked the House to investigate the military exercises between US and Filipino troops.

Led by Bayan Muna Partylist Rep. Satur Ocampo, the congressmen asked the House foreign affairs committee to investigate the presence and activities of the US troops.

The chair of the House foreign affairs committee, Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr., is among the co-authors along with Representatives Marcelino Libanan, Ruffy Biazon, Didagen Dilangalen, Ted Failon and Gregorio Ipong and Liza Maza and Crispin Beltran of Bayan Muna, Nerios Acosta and Rolex Suplico that filed House Resolution 374.

Akbayan Partylist Rep. Etta Rosales said the House committee on civil, political and human rights which she chairs expressed its objection to Balikatan in a privilege speech yesterday.

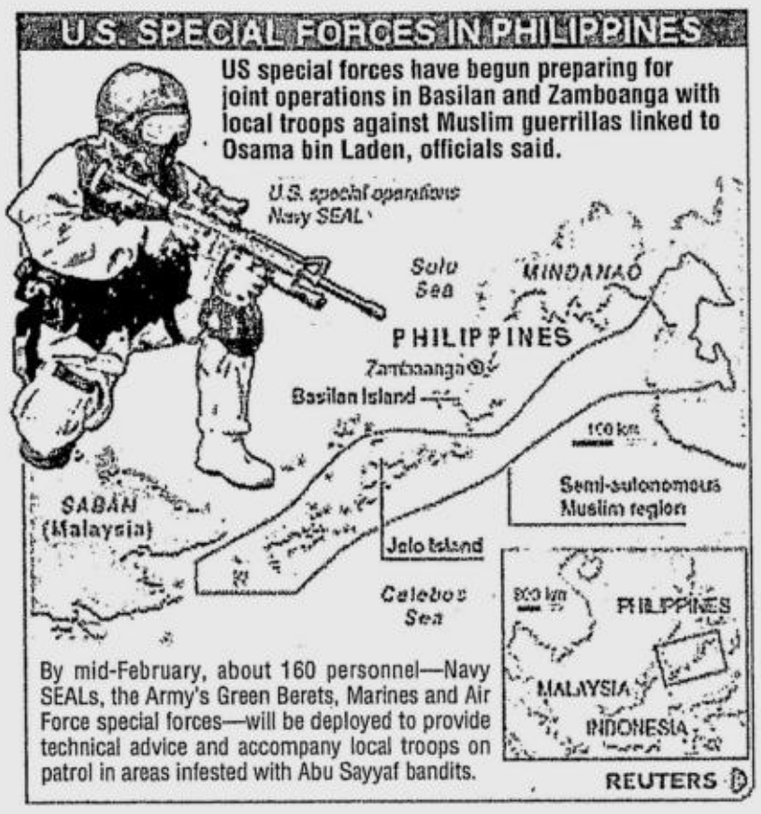
But Ocampo called for an inquiry in aid of legislation.

"I think it is proper for the legislature to inquire into the constitutionality and legality of this arrangement because there is the possibility that constitutional provision (is violated)," Ocampo said.

Ocampo said the Balikatan should be stopped unless the concerns raised by various sectors are clarified.

"I think it is proper that an investigation be conducted as soon as possible before any further damage to the national sovereignty is done," Ocampo said.

Ocampo said the presence of some 600 US troops who would be allowed to join field operations against the Abu Sayyaf violates Article 18 of the Constitution. The direct participation of the US troops in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf was not contemplated in the VFA. Ocampo added that the United Nations resolution supporting the US fight against terrorism is "not binding if it conflicts with the Constitution."



Another Bayan Muna partylist representative, Crispin Beltran, enjoined the Senate and the House to block the joint military exercise. He joined his colleagues' call for an investigation.

Militants

Militant groups yesterday pressed the Macapagal administration to recall the deployment of 7,000 Marines and call off the RP-US joint military exercises in Basilan and Zamboanga City following the killing of 20 people during a pro-Misuari rally in the municipal hall of Jolo, Sulu. *(Story on Page A1.)*

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas called on Ms Macapagal "to refrain from gambling people's lives just to pursue the government's military campaign in Mindanao. In the same vein, we want the administration to scrap the ongoing RP-US war games because it would trigger more violence in the strife-torn areas in the South," said Rodolfo Sambajon, Pamalakaya national chair.

"The carnage and mass murder of civilians in Jolo last Tuesday was unpardonable, highly inflammatory and truly revolting. The clear and present danger of Mindanao becoming a wide-open killing field and slaughterhouse is not a remote possibility with the presence of thousands of berserk government soldiers and war freak US troops," Sambajon said.

Gerry Albert-Corpuz, Pamalakaya information officer, condemned the killings, saying the "policy of mass murder" was employed to stifle legitimate cause and grievances.

Pamalakaya called for the immediate resignation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva for their failure to contain their "wild boys and trigger happy mercenaries."

Reyes' new role

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said Reyes was running over the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Senate and Congress in his "new role as the chief proponent of US military intervention in the country."

"He has shown utter disregard for other institutions in the country, conveniently foisting upon the people the prolonged presence of US troops in the country," said Bayan chair Rafael Mariano.

Reyes came under fire from Congress and the Senate today after the arrival of 100 American military advisers in the country and his announcement of joint military exercises lasting from 6-12 months.

Mariano said that Reyes was trying to score points with the United States in an apparent bid to boost his electoral chances in 2004.

"He's trying to show where his loyalties lie, that he's America's most reliable ally in the country, even more reliable than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," Mariano said.

Bayan has called the joint exercises as the return of the US bases in the country.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) also warned Malacañang and the AFP that protests against the Kalayaan-Aguila 2002 joint RP-US military exercises would continue to mount and that human rights and peoples organizations would keep guard against possible human rights violations committed by the military under the pretext of an "extensive military training program."

"However which way would National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and AFP spokesperson Edilberto Adan justify the holding of the Kalayaan-Aguila military exercises here in the country, they could not convince the public that the safety of civilians in Basilan and Zamboanga are guaranteed. The security and the sovereignty of the whole nation were already imperiled when the government consented to the joint military exercises," said KMU secretary general Elmer Labog.

The Promotion of Church People's Response joined the widespread opposition to the presence of US troops. Its spokesperson, Fr. Allan Arcebuche, OFM, said Filipinos are "aware of too many casualties from accidental firing during these 'war games' when the Americans used to occupy two military bases here." *With reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta, Armand Nocum, Joel B. Escovilla and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cotabato doc's kidnap triggers 5-day strike

(From page A1)

pursuing lawmen, while another was arrested, military officers said.

Dr. Rosemarie Agustin, 52, was seized by five gunmen, believed to be members of the Pentagon kidnap gang, near her home at around 9 p.m., according to Supt. Sanggacala Dampac, city police director.

Agustin's family owns the Cotabato Medical Specialist Hospital, the second biggest private hospital here, and a gas station in Midsayap town in Cotabato.

Dampac said the doctor had just parked her car in front of her house along Oblate Drive and was waiting for the house helper to open the gate when she was grabbed.

Her husband, Dr. Gerardo Agustin, who was driving another car only a few meters away, did not react for fear that the kidnappers, who were armed with handguns and rifles, would kill his wife.

The woman doctor tried to resist but was overpowered by the kidnappers and forced to board a waiting red Toyota car with license plate No. NLX-237, Dampac said.

Officials said the kidnappers brought Agustin to Barangay Poblacion 2, near the Matampay River, and sailed in two boats to Barangay Taviran in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

Responding government forces and members of the Moro National Liberation Front caught up with the group and killed three of the kidnappers.

An Agence France Presse report quoted Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, as saying Agustin was taken in a boat up a river toward the Liguasan Marsh, where it ran into a military checkpoint yesterday.

Cotabato Mayor Muslimin Sema said residents had earlier alerted the MNLF members about a suspicious-looking motorboat cruising the Tamontaka River.

The MNLF men fired at the kidnappers, hitting one of them.

Another version

Local radio dxMS reported another version of the encounter.

The two boats were about to dock at the fish landing area in Taviran, where two policemen, who were among those who were alerted, were waiting.

One of the policemen, who pretended to be a member of the kidnap group, shouted, "Where's our victim?"

One of the abductors responded that the physician was "in the boat next to us," but his companions recognized the policemen.

When the kidnappers tried to escape, the lawmen fired at their boat, hitting three of them.

Dampac said another suspect, identified as Zainudin Akmad, of Supermarket area, Cotabato City, was hit in the leg and was arrested while seeking refuge in a nearby house.

He quoted Akmad as saying only two persons were left holding Agustin.

The abduction sparked a protest march by about 100 doctors on the heart of this city of 165,000 people.

Hospitals and clinics began a five-day strike in support of their abducted colleague, said Abdullah Dumama, the city health officer. There are at least 50 hospitals and clinics in the city.

Emergency cases

Government and private doctors and nurses said they would only treat emergency cases during the five-day period unless the kidnappers freed Agustin, Dumama said.

"We will have no consultations (but we) will treat emergency cases," he said.

He said both government and private physicians "temporarily halt(ed) our services as we condemn this attack against us."

Dr. Teresita Mansilla, president of the Cotabato City Medical Society, told Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp. that the closure would last until Agustin is freed unharmed and unconditionally.

"The out-patient departments of public and private hospitals will be closed, but the emergency rooms will be open for emergency cases only," Mansilla said.

Kyamko told the INQUIRER that "we will use all our resources to get them. The remaining captors and the victim are holed up in one area within the Liguasan Marsh and they are surrounded."

Ghadzali Jaafar, political affairs chief of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said orders were already issued to the group's field commanders to go after the abductors.

"Chair Salamat (Hashim) directed our field commanders in the Liguasan Marsh to arrest the suspects and rescue the victim," Jaafar told the INQUIRER.

Pursuit mission

The military sent at least two helicopter gunships as ground troops, backed by MNLF members and integrees, combed the vast marshland that traverses Maguindanao, Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces.

"We are trying to prevent them from escaping because she might be turned over to Tahir Alonto's group," said Army Col. Essel Soriano, chief of the anti-kidnap group Task Force Sagittarius.

Alonto heads a faction of the dreaded kidnap gang that figured in several incidents, including the abduction of at least four Chinese nationals last year.

Maj. Julieto Ando, Army spokesperson, said the group that seized Agustin was part of the Pentagon gang, which was also holding hostage Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni.

"One group does the surveillance, another pulls the abduction, while still another keeps the victim. The core group does the negotiation and raise the demands," Ando said.

In Davao City, Supt. Alex Monteagudo, chief of the National Anti-kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf)-Southern Command, said his group was also coordinating with local police and military forces for the recovery of the victim. *With reports from Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AFP*

Solon says GMA needs to boost EQ

(From page A1)

a cue from the title of her son's movie.

"Maybe Mikey's movie applies to her—'*Di Kita Ma-Reach* (meaning 'I Can't Reach You),'" observed Batanes Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad, president of the Liberal Party which is a partner in the administration coalition.

According to Abad, the President appears "cold and distant." She ought to improve on her "emotional leadership" if she wants to make her governance more effective, he said.

Abad pointed out that it was not the President's performance but her style of leadership that was causing disenchantment in some sectors and leading to her political allies' withdrawal of support.

"I don't think the issue is performance," he said. "She's done fairly well and you cannot criticize her work ethics. She really works hard and she does her homework. You cannot belittle the economic performance."

But the President is lacking in the EQ (emotional quotient) department, he said.

"It's the trait that Filipinos are looking for. Even if you work well but if you are a person who is distant and cold, all of these (good works) are forgotten," Abad said.

Industrialist Raul Concepcion said Tuesday that the President should change her management style. He said the country needed a leader, not an economic manager.

He also said the President came across as "too strong or *mataray*" and "all-knowing."

Stung, Ms Macapagal yesterday said the economy would have been worse off were it not for her leadership.

She claimed in an interview with radio station dzAR that Concepcion had never supported her, anyway, not even when she was vice president. She did not say why.

Reaching out

Abad conceded that the President had been reaching out.

"(But) it's how you reach out that matters," he said. "Even when she invites us in small groups, we don't get to talk to her. Somehow it doesn't seem like family."

Abad cited a new paradigm of leadership—emotional leadership—that, he said, the President should not take for granted because the leadership of competence and strength might not be enough.

"These things may appear trivial, but I think they matter and so they're something to think about," he said.

He suggested that she genuinely reach out to the people, including those who had helped oust her predecessor Joseph Estrada.

He said the primary question now was why these allies who had helped unseat Estrada were not coming forward to support her against her critics.

But for all that, Abad said he welcomed the President's decision to conduct a dialogue with various sectors as well as some "soul-searching."

He said Vicky Garchitorena, former chief of the Presidential Management Staff, had phoned him to invite LP members to a meeting with the President.

"I think for the next 40 days she'll be having a series of dialogues," he said. "She will try to reach out, which is good."

Leadership

Faltering in her New Year's resolution to be less short-fused, the President shot back at Concepcion: "If I were not a leader, do you think we would have achieved a 3.7-percent (gross domestic product) growth rate? (If I were not a leader) we would have also been in recession like Singapore."

She cited her success in getting Congress to pass the crucial Power Reform Act and Anti-Money Laundering law despite a strong opposition bloc in the Senate.

"Is that what you call lack of leadership?" she demanded.

Ms Macapagal also dismissed the "zero rating" she had received from militant groups.

"When did they ever support the government?" she said. "Ever since, haven't they been against the system?"

She went on: "Why would I stop working? So our economy will really go down? If that's what they want, then they are not after the good of the country. They are after bringing me down."

The President said she was secure of the support of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin despite contrary media reports.

She said she was able to speak with the cardinal two days ago and quoted him as saying, "Gloria, you are doing very well and I support you."

"So (the media) should not put words into Cardinal Sin's mouth," she said.

Her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao issued a statement citing certain policy decisions where, he said, his boss asserted leadership during difficult moments.

He said among these were her decisions to:

- Push through with Estrada's trial despite the risk of a backlash against her candidates in last year's elections.
- Reach out to the urban poor and the opposition who participated in the bloody Labor Day siege of Malacañang.
- Stick to her no-ransom policy against the Abu Sayyaf despite the military's hardships in rescuing the hostages of the bandit group.

Diplomacy

Tiglao said the President "made a mark in world diplomacy" by joining the US-led anti-terrorism coalition and spearheading the Asean declaration against terrorism.

He pointed out that she had also kept at bay forces that wanted to unseat her.

"Despite the nonstop plots against her administration, the President focused on the economy and implemented very specific pro-poor programs," he said. "That's leadership, not just management."

Tiglao also said it was too soon to judge the President's charisma, or lack of it, as a leader.

He said former British Prime Ministers Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher and former US President John F. Kennedy did not become charismatic leaders overnight.

"Charisma cannot be contrived overnight by spin doctors," Tiglao said. "It took years and series of crisis before charismatic leaders like Churchill, JFK and Thatcher exuded their charisma."

Upholding the TRUTH on DOTC Secretary PANTALEON ALVAREZ

For the sake of truth and national unity, **we wish to clarify many false accusations recently being propagated in the mass media by certain well-funded detractors and powerful vested commercial interests** against Transportation and Communication Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

- The PIATCO contract for the NAIA 3 Airport project was **negotiated and finalized during the previous Ramos and Estrada administrations. Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez was only appointed to the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) in January 2001 under the new Macapagal-Arroyo administration.**

- When questions were raised against the PIATCO contract, **Secretary Alvarez asked the Department of Justice to review the legality of the agreement. Congress had also conducted its own investigations** of the PIATCO contract under former Transportation Committee Chairman then Congressman Rodolfo Tuazon, and again under the Transportation Committee now headed by Congressman Jacinto Paras. These reviews and investigations had upheld the legality of the contract.

- **As DOTC Secretary, Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez has no authority to arbitrarily rescind a legal contract. As the DOTC Secretary, he is bound under the law to implement all contracts which had been approved. Upholding and implementing legal business contracts is important for the credibility of the Philippine government among international community and foreign investors.**

- **Critical allegations questioning the legality of its foreign investors participating in an infrastructure modernization project should be the domain of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), not the DOTC**. As a general rule, the DOTC upholds the longstanding government policy of welcoming all legitimate foreign and local investors to participate in modernizing the transportation and communication infrastructures of the Philippine

- Detractors had distorted the truth and unfairly accused Secretary Alvarez of not promoting the developments of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport. **The DOTC had already encouraged and approved the increase of flights in this premier airport, for the purpose of servicing the people of Northern and Central Luzon.**

  Among the additional flights are: Cebu Pacific Airways three times a week, Manila to Clark to Cebu. Sea Air daily flights, Manila to Clark. UPS/PEAC, Manila to Clark to Hong Kong. Intercontinental Pacific Airways, international chartered flights from Clark to Taipei. Philippine-Macau Air Agreement also includes the Civil Aeronautics Board(CAB) specification that the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport as an additional destination.

- It is unfortunate that detractors of DOTC Secretary Alvarez have resorted to unfounded personal attacks, alleging that he is constructing a "mansion." **The actual facts can be readily verified, such as the bank loan obtained by Secretary Alvarez for his yet unfinished house remodeling project.**It is a malicious and gross exaggeration to describe the house project as "a mansion," since the lot area is only 600 square meters. This property was purchased in year 2000, before he was appointed DOTC Secretary, and is the fruit of his years of labor and lifetime savings. Contrary to attempts to insinuate fraud, this house is a matter of public record and had been declared as part of the statement of assets and liabilities submitted by Secretary Alvarez.

The powerful detractors of Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez **should not resort to vicious personal attacks and black propaganda in their well-funded mass media campaign, but should argue based on facts and issues.**

With his devotion to public duty, his work ethic and unblemished public service record, Secretary Alvarez upholds the high professional and ethical standards of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration. Even as legislator representing the people of Davao, Secretary Alvarez had already manifested his pro-poor, pro-Filipino, reformist and action-oriented leadership.

We challenge these detractors to join hands with the DOTC and national government to develop the transportation and communication infrastructures of the Philippines. **For many years, the Philippine economy has suffered the negative consequences of endless political intrigues. Let us uphold truth, good governance, national unity and build a progressive Filipino nation!**

Let us listen to the voice of the responsible citizenry and the multi-sectoral groups who support the pro-people and action-oriented leadership of Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez:

"In his short incumbency at the DOTC, Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez has demonstrated the requisite technical expertise, managerial skills, vision, commitment and sense of urgency needed of an effective and efficient DOTC secretary."

— MIGUEL VARELA —
President, Phil. Chamber of Commerce & Industry

— DONALD DEE —
President, Employers Confederation of the Phils.

"Secretary Alvarez is fully cognizant of the need to maintain a level playing field and to enforce laws and regulations consistently without fear or favor, which are vital in encouraging investments in the transportation and communications sectors."

— SERGIO ORTIZ-LUIS, JR. —
President, Phil. Exporters Confederation

— ISABELITA PALANCA —
President, Women in Business

— JOSE ROMERO —
President, Philippines, Inc.

"The officers of the 38 municipalities including Marawi City comprising the Province of Lanao del Sur are convinced of the good track-record and expertise of DOTC Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez, whom we believe has that 'sense of concern' to our total development and to the other Cultural Minorities of the country. Therfore, we express our strong support for hisconfirmation by the Commission on Appointments."

— HON. SULTAN TOPAAN DISOMIMBA —
President, Mayor's League of Lanao del Sur

"It is the unanimous decision of the FPPCP directors, officers and members to declare their unequivocal and strongest support for Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez appointment as DOTC Secretary. The integrity, honesty, competence and capability of Honorable Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez to lead the DOTC is beyond question.

— BERNIE G. MIAQUE, JR. —
Chairman/President, Federation of Provincial Press Clubs of the Phils.

"We believe that the Honorable Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez possesses the necessary qualifications, 'fitness, sincerity, and fairness' to lead the Department of Transportation and Communications and pursue its programs of action to bring about much needed development and modernization in sea transport and land-based infrastructure to help spur economic activity and growth in our outlying islands."

— GERARDO M. SANTOS —
Chairman, Philippine Petroleum Sea Transport Association

"We are alarmed by the barrage of rehashed attacks that are leveled against him (Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez) for protecting investments the initiation of which was not even done during his term but of the past DOTC leaderships."

— OSCAR D. BALBANERO —
President, Southern Tagalog Association of Regional Executives

"We appeal to you (Commission on Appointments) that he (Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez) be judged in accordance with the interests of investments and development in the areas of travel, communications and tourism, rather than the vested interests of some Manila businessmen, who have yet to demonstrate their concern for the welfare and development of Mindanao."

— ALONGAN AMABOR —
President, Association of Regional Executives in Central Mindanao

"The Federation reiterates its strong support for the immediate confirmation of DOTC Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez in the interest of public service, and in order to attain total development in Mindanao."

— ALPAROUK K. USMAN —
Pres., Youth Movement for a Better Gov't

— AMERA D. PAGLAS —
Pres.,Kabataan para sa Kaunlaran at Kapayapaan

— ABDULNASER H. AZIS —
Chairman, Muslim-Christian Youth

— MUKHTAR T. JULKIPLI —
Pres., Muslim Youth Assn. For Reform

— FATANI R. OLAMA —
Pres., CDO-Muslim Youth Org.

— HASHIM B. NURKHAN —
Conveyor, Davao Muslim Youth

"Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez has the expertise and experience to formulate and implement reforms in the transport sector. His introduction of the 'OKS na OKS' project has reduced bureaucratic red tape and expedited the delivery of services to transport operators."

— VICENTE MALLARI —
President for Pampanga and Tarlac, PKKP Tertiary Transport Cooperative

"We strongly endorse the confirmation of Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez by the Commission on Appointments. We appeal to the members of the Commission to consider the greater national interest and Secretary Alvarez's fitness for the post as the primary criteria in the confirmation hearings. We believe Secretary Alvarez possesses the requisite vision, expertise and commitment to lead the air transport sector to greater heights."

— ARCHIBALD PO —
Director, Asian Spirit

"More than anybody else in the DOTC, past and present, Secretary Alvarez has introduced reforms, dynamism and innovative changes. The changes introduced by Secretary Alvarez had left visible impact in the country's telecommunications, land, maritime and air industry that effectively brought the nation to the 21st century in a matter of months."

— DAVAO ORIENTAL REPRESENTATIVE MAYO Z. ALMARIO —
Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Mindanao Affairs

"Secretary Alvarez's youthful leadership gives us hope that under the Arroyo government, there are government functionaries who would rather risk defending and protecting private sector investments if only to encourage more private investments that could benefit the countryside than succumb to pressures just to become popular."

— LEYTE GOVERNOR REMEDIOS L. PETILLA —
Chair, Eastern Visayas Regional Development Council

"We signify our full and unbending support and assent to the confirmation of Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez as DOTC chief. A man of clear vision, Secretary Alvarez will provide the much-needed leadership as we gear towards a more competitive society."

— CAGAYAN GOVERNOR EDGAR RAMONES LARA —
Chairman, Regional Development Council, Region II

"This is the first time for the transportation department to have a secretary who truly understands the problems and concerns of the air transportation industry. Secretary Alvarez's numerous reforms have created a viable and dynamic business environment for the country's air transportation industry."

— ERNESTO DEL ROSARIO —
President, Federation of Aviation Organizations of the Philippines

"I commend Secretary Pantaleon "Bebot' Alvarez for his commitment and dedication to pursue the modernization of our transportation and communications sectors. I am quite familiar with the air transport business and I can vouch that Secretary Alvarez's policies and programs are in the right directions."

— ILOCOS NORTE REPRESENTATIVE ROQUITO ABLAN, JR. —
Chairman, House of Representatives Inter-Parliamentary Relations Services

"He (Secretary Panaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez) may have incurred the ire of several influential individuals when he telegraphed his intention to go strongly against monopoly in the field of transportation and communications . . . He is equipped with the intelligence and dedication that government needs in its efforts to perk up the economy."

— DAVAO DEL NORTE REPRESENTATIVE ANTONIO FLOIRENDO, JR. —

"The officers and members of the Philippine Postal Corp. believe that Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez's vision in making the DOTC free from bureaucratic red tape, graft and corruption and 'Palakasan' syndrome should be continued. His unselfish personal conviction as a leader drives us to pursue our goal in praying for his immediate confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. We declare our unconditional support and our commitment for his confirmation without further delay."

— ANTONIO F. REYES —
Founder/Advisor, Philippine Postal Supervisory Association, Inc.

"The Postal Employees Union of the Phils., conveys its unwavering support to the transparency and dedication that Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez possesses in running the DOTC. We believe that his leadership will benefit the department and the country. We declare our unconditional support for his immediate confirmation."

— NOEL V. DACASIN —
President, Postal Employees Union of the Phils.

"We unanimously endorse the confirmation of Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez for the DOTC. We appeal to the Commission on Appointments to head the call of the Mindanaoans and give Secretary Alvarez the chance to continue the projects he has started to help develop Mindanao."

— ELY A. BARCELONA —
President, Mindanao Media Association

"Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez has shown exemplary performance during his one year in office. The Organization of Regional Offices of Region X comprising the Regional Directors and heads of national government agencies of Northern Mindanao believe in his leadership and complete dedication. We appeal to the Commission on Appointments for his confirmation the soonest possible time and be the second cabinet member representing the entire island of Mindanao."

— MANDANGAN P. DARIMBANG —
President,Organization of Regional Offices

"The officers and members of the AOPAP express our sincerest appreciation for the laudable efforts of the DOTC to alleviate the dismal status of the local aviation industry. We are steadfast in our firm support for the leadership of Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez and unanimously endorse his immediate confirmation."

— CAPT. GERONIMO A. AMURAO —
President, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association – Philippines

"The Board of Directors and members of the PBOAP strongly endorse the confirmation of Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez as DOTC secretary. His performance has been exemplary and meritorious and he has been a big help to the bus industry."

— ALEJANDRO R. YAGUE, SR. —
President, Provincial Bus Operators Assn. of the Philippines

"We believe that Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez possesses the necessary qualifications, fitness, sincerity and fairness to lead the DOTC and pursue its programs of action to bring about the much needed development and modernization in sea transport and land-based infrastructure to help spur economic activity and growth in the outlying islands. We believe that the issues raised which dispute the integrity and honesty of the Secretary are believed to be unfounded. We, therefore, unanimously resolve to endorse to the Commission on Appointments the confirmation of Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez."

— DORIS MAGSAYSAY - HO —
Chairman of the Board, Philippine Inter-Island Shipping Association

"This Association of Rebel Returnees asks the Commission on Appointments to consider the immediate confirmation of Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez as DOTC secretary. He demonstrated his intense desire to give attention in the development of telecommunications especially in the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte."

— NASSER MACABANTING —
Secretary General, Lanao Rebel Returnees Association

" The members of the Fraternal Order of Utopia of the Ateneo de Manila University, fully endorse the confirmation by the Commission on Appointments of Hon. Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez as Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications. His designation as DOTC secretary is recognition of his pioneering spirit in modernizing and improving the transportation and communications system in our nation."

— COMMISSIONER CHING VELOSO AND OTHER MEMBERS —
Fraternal Order of Utopia, Ateneo de Manila

" President Arroyo made the right decision in choosing Secretary Pantaleon 'Bebot' Alvarez because he is a 'no-nonsense executive' who knows what he has to do at the department. I have observed him at close range and I can vouch for his honesty and devotion to the transportation industry's progress. At these crucial times, Mindanao needs another face in the President's Cabinet. Secretary Bebot Alvarez is an upright man, with commitment to principles and a commitment to the welfare of the people. I appeal to the Commission on Appointments to confirm Secretary Alvarez without delay."

— DAVAO CITY MAYOR RODRIGO R. DUTERTE —

Paid Ad [illegible]

Edsa I, II for all, key players reminded

(From page A1)

eral of Courage, the confederation of government workers. "We are here to celebrate the victory of Edsa, but they have militarized the celebration as if they're afraid of the very people who put them into power."

Yesterday's anniversary rites got off to a bad start as thousands of policemen and soldiers barred members of militant and civil society groups from entering the Edsa Shrine.

About 2,500 people belonging to various People Power II groups gathered at La Salle Greenhills yesterday afternoon for a reunion.

They were to have marched to the Edsa Shrine to join other groups in the anniversary rites. But according to Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño, they were informed earlier in the day that they would not be allowed to enter the premises of the shrine on the orders of Bishop Villegas.

Chris Carion, executive director of the Edsa People Power Commission, said Villegas had explained that Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin no longer wanted the shrine to be used for political reasons.

Carion said that while they were saddened, they had to respect the prelate's decision.

Casiño, however, pointed out that they merely wanted to relive the victory won by the people. He also decried the massive deployment of government forces, and described the Macapagal administration as paranoid.

In a press statement, Villegas said the cardinal had been able to convince government organizers of the commemorative rites "not to use the deck of the Edsa Shrine for the anniversary rally.

"As a matter of policy, the deck of the Edsa Shrine, the church area and its surroundings must be used only strictly for pastoral and religious activities," Villegas said.

He issued the reminder that the shrine "stands on church property owned by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila." As such, it can only be used "according to the rules of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila," he said.

Villegas added: "We advise our brothers and sisters who wish to gather for political rallies to use other public venues for their undertaking."

Resentment

Negotiations last night produced this result: Militant groups will be allowed up to the center lane of Edsa Ortigas but not at the main road and immediate sidewalk of the Edsa Shrine.

But Bayan's Nathanael Santiago was not mollified. "It's unfair and unreasonable for the Edsa participants not to be able to celebrate the spirit of Edsa at the Edsa Shrine. *Masama ang loob namin* (We resent this)," he said.

Representatives of militant groups, Chief Supt. Edgardo Aglipay, and Villegas participated in the negotiations.

Aglipay had earlier said the marchers might be allowed up to the shrine, "but only if the owners permit."

In a statement, Argee Guevarra of Sanlakas said in Filipino: "It is no longer a celebration of people power that is being held. The administration's message to the public is a declaration of a police state. It looks like the police have taken over the Edsa Shrine, and the Blessed Virgin Mary has become a virtual prisoner of the government's armed forces."

Sanlakas, a consistent critic of the Macapagal administration, earlier said groups under its wing were set for a rally on Jan. 18 at the People Power Monument, a few meters away from the Edsa Shrine.

Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas president, said the group, along with the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod, and Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Manggagawang Pilipino would denounce the failures of Ms Macapagal and People Power II.

He said simultaneous activities would be held in Iloilo City, Bacolod, Cebu, Iligan, Davao and some parts of Southern Tagalog.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) said the people would only celebrate Estrada's ouster, and not Ms Macapagal's first year in power.

"There's nothing to be pleased about Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's rise to power," said KMU secretary general Elmer Labog. Apart from her glaring traits of being '*mataray*,' hot-headed and arrogant, her isolation from the masses of poor Filipinos is hastened by her own pro-globalization and anti-people policies and programs."

3 elements

In his homily, Villegas said people power could not succeed without three key elements: God, service and people.

"People power must not set aside God," he said, adding that it must be staged with God as the "only hero."

And for people power to succeed, it must also be "not for self-service, but service of others."

"Where there is self-service, where there is only arrogance, where there is only pride and ambition, people power is bound to fail. It cannot even be called by such a name," Villegas said.

He said it must also be for the people and "not for any person, any political party, any candidate, or any social class."

Neither was it "anyone's initiative," he said.

"Our two lady Presidents will be the first to admit that people power was not staged in order to make Mrs. Aquino President or Mrs. Arroyo President," Villegas said.

He asked the people to "pray for them, and we thank God for them."

Villegas also said people power was staged "because we wanted morality in government."

"Take care of our people power," he urged the people. "Let no one make fun of it, let no one abuse it, let no one make a mockery of it."

Asked for his views on Villegas' homily, Ramos said: "I agree." Asked whose ambition the bishop could be referring to, he merely smiled.

Aquino also expressed agreement with Villegas that "people power is a gift from God, so we should continue praying and pray for unity in our country."

At the end of the Mass, Villegas thanked Ms Macapagal for choosing "a simple way of celebrating this anniversary by reaching out to the poor, rather than a grand celebration."

"What matters most is that our thanksgiving is received by God," he said.

Reunion

The "Reunion of People Power II Heroes" at La Salle, which was supposed to have started at 4 p.m., was delayed for about an hour because the police and military initially barred about 500 members of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, KMU, Gabriela and other militant groups that had come from Quezon City from entering Ortigas Avenue.

The grounds resounded with music from the famous anti-Estrada "White Album," the school walls were draped with "Erap Resign" streamers.

Among the speakers were Bro. Rolly Dizon of De la Salle University, Bayan's Casiño, businessman Jose Concepcion, Rep. Oscar Moreno, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, urban poor leader "Nanay" Mameng Deunida, youth leader Raymond Palatino, Pastor "Boy" Saycon of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) and Dante Jimenez of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

Performances were rendered by The Jerks, Pol Galang, Coritha, Sining Bugkos, RJ Jacinto and the Ouster Band, Pinky Marquez, Sining Lila and Nanding Josef.

In lieu of a speech, Rep. Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna read a poem.

Among those seen at the reunion were Fr. Joe Dizon, convenor of the Estrada Resign Movement; former Rep. Jose Cojuangco and former Gov. Luis Singson of the Copa; and former Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani.

The reunion was organized by the Estrada Resign Movement, Citizens National Network Against Poverty and Corruption and Bayan, in coordination with the Edsa People Power Commission. Also in attendance were members of the August Twenty-One Movement, Couples for Christ, Barangay RJ and other Edsa II forces.

In a statement, Estrada Resign Movement spokesperson Fr. Joe Dizon said: "People Power II is a victorious people's uprising that is worth celebrating. It is full of lessons for a people continuously searching for justice, good governance and meaningful reforms.

"We must pay tribute to the people for making People Power II possible because it reaffirmed national unity against bad governance, as exemplified by Estrada, and justice and meaningful change.

"In the most forceful of words and actions, we sent shivers down the spines of corrupt public officials, traitors to national sovereignty and those who seek to reinstitute militarist rule."

Dizon also said that "despite mounting frustration with the present administration, People Power II rightfully deserves commemoration."

"It is up to the people who started it, and made sure it won, to claim history, learn its lessons and pursue its worthwhile mission," he added. ***With reports from Agnes Donato and Luige del Puerto***

OUTSIDE, soldiers keep the peace along Ortigas Avenue.

EDWIN BACASMAS

SOMETHING to applaud about at the Edsa Shrine during the Mass for the first anniversary commemoration of Edsa II. From left, former President Fidel Ramos, former President Cory Aquino, Mr. Mike Arroyo and President Macapagal.

EDWIN BACASMAS

KALAMPAG ng Masa press conference is held by pro-Estrada personalities, from left: San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Sen. Loi Ejercito, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Rep. Didagen Dilangalen and former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

VAL HANDUMON

Scout Rangers butchered like animals

(From page A1)

Eyewitnesses said the elite Army troopers had gone to the market to buy some supplies when residents started chasing them.

Upon catching up with the soldiers, the civilians started hacking them. When it was all over, three of them lay dead, with their internal organs spilling out on the pavement.

Other residents said the soldiers were decapitated before the military could retrieve their bodies.

"*Puno ng tadtad ang kanilang katawan,*" Joseph Morong, a reporter of GMA-7, said of the soldiers.

The acting military spokesperson said former members of the MNLF integrated into the Philippine National Police (PNP) were involved in the attack.

"I would not go into a generality that all integrees have misplaced loyalties at this point. (It's) but an isolated incident," Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya said in a briefing.

After the hacking, the military launched air assaults on known hideouts of supporters of Misuari, former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Clash in Indanan

In Indanan, Sulu, Army troops clashed with members of the Misuari Renegade Group at around 10:30 a.m. or one-and-a-half hours after the three Scout Rangers were killed. Four soldiers were wounded in the firefight.

Even as reports pointed to irate civilians as responsible for the death of the three Scout Rangers, the military blamed the police's Special Mobile Group (SMG) composed of PNP integrees.

Col. Romeo Tolentino, commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade, said pulling out the SMG from Jolo would help ease the tension in Jolo.

Tolentino said those composing the 300-man SMG, were Misuari's former close-in security.

Some 1,000 former MNLF members had been integrated into the Army while another 300 belong to the SMG.

The killing of the Scout Rangers came even as the military was declaring that the situation was "under control."

"I have just talked with Col. Romeo Tolentino (chief of the 104th Brigade) and the first thing he did was send everybody back to the barracks. I would imagine that the PNP is doing the same," said Abaya, Armed Forces of the Philippines deputy chief.

The situation in Jolo was chaotic, according to the spokesperson of the Sulu provincial government.

"It is like a ghost town," Kitzar Samsuya told the Zamboanga City-based dxLL Radyo Ukay. "People are afraid to go out and move around town," he said.

He confirmed reports that business establishments and offices were closed and classes suspended following yesterday's violence.

How trouble started

The mayhem on Tuesday started when a crowd that staged the pro-Misuari rally near the market here was becoming unruly.

Mayor Suod Tan said that the Marines had sent two soldiers in civilian clothes as the crowd was becoming restless. The soldiers were apparently ordered to mingle with the crowd to gather information.

It was the second day of the rally, which sympathizers of Misuari used as a forum to criticize the government.

Some protesters noticed that the undercover soldiers were carrying grenades, fueling suspicions that they were about to sabotage the rally. The crowd ganged up on the soldiers.

Tan said a police contingent assigned to the area arrested the soldiers. But the crowd had began mauling them.

While the soldiers were being beaten up, a jeepload of Marines arrived and tried to rescue their comrades, according to the mayor.

Tan said the Marines fired into the air to disperse the crowd but some eyewitnesses contradicted the mayor's account.

They said the soldiers directly fired on the crowd, which prompted the combined forces of the Jolo police to fire back, killing all five soldiers in the jeep.

Mistaken identity

Supt. Ahiron Adjirim, Sulu police director, said that "what happened was a case of mistaken identity."

He said he had talked with Tolentino, "to contain the situation and diffuse the tension."

He said Tolentino assured him that he would institute disciplinary measures as soon as the results of the investigation are out.

In an interview over radio dxMM, Tolentino said "the mistake was that they should have informed the superior officer in the area first."

Pending the results of the probe, the national police was standing by the version of police investigators in Jolo that it was a Marine soldier who provoked the armed encounter, according to Chief Supt. Crescencio Maralit, PNP spokesperson.

Maralit said Marine soldier Roger Elacion, who was in civilian clothes, turned up during a rally by supporters of Misuari in front of the Jolo police station at around 4:30 p.m.

Seeing that he had a hand grenade, the protesters attacked Elacion. Shortly after, a jeepload of Marine soldiers arrived and opened fire on the crowd.

This prompted the MNLF integrees from the PNP Special Mobile Group and the Philippine Army, who were at the time securing the area, to return fire.

In Davao City, Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for Mindanao, said he would be flying to Sulu today to gather more information on the "misencounter."

"We will make an assessment on the actual situation and provide medicines to those injured civilians and soldiers during the encounter," he said.

Senate probe

"Concerned Citizens of Sulu," organizers of the rallies, yesterday faxed a letter to Sen. Robert Barbers asking for a Senate investigation of the two bloody incidents.

Lawyer Ulka Ulama asked that the investigation "be made as soon as possible to avert the worst situation that may happen."

He said that the conflict between the law enforcement agencies "is so serious (it) must be stopped immediately."

Earlier, the same group, chaired by Ustadz Ibrahim Ghazali had petitioned the Supreme Court for the "immediate transfer" of Misuari and "those similarly situated," from their detention cells in Laguna, Bicutan, Taguig and "elsewhere in Metro Manila" to Jolo.

Names of casualties

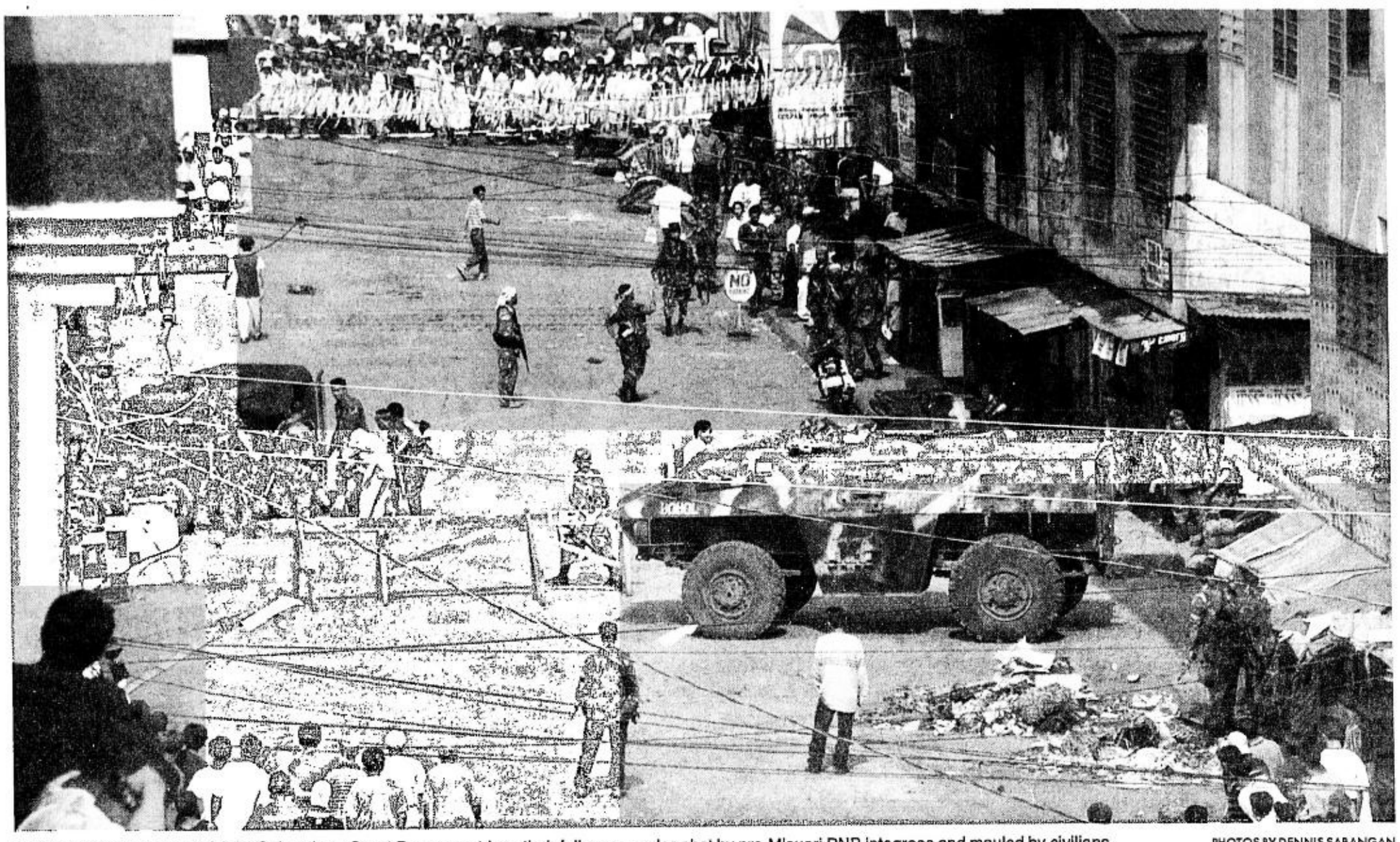
The military refused to provide the identities of the three Scout Rangers but released the names of the 10 Marines who died on Tuesday.

They were identified as sergeants Ed Jakosalem, Reynante Fernandez and Fernando Lazaro Jove; and corporals Mark Anthony Yap, Nelson Guizona, Luper Agnas, Renato Caipillan, Victor Eaton and Philippe Bautistad.

Wounded were corporals Marvin Arejola and Salvador Cestina.

Of the six civilians killed, only four were identified so far. They were Badan Mudah (an engineer), Mobin Mukatil, Tangkian Hamli and Lino Hawari.

Listed as wounded were Aquino Arrabi, Engr. Bajunaid Amilasan, Nasra Sabinan, Anni Ali, Malah Abdurahim, Maning Basagan, Reynaldo de Vera, Almida Mohammad, Aldemir Kodil and Alnur Kalbi. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo in Manila, Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



HIGH noon in the streets of Jolo, Sulu, where Scout Rangers retrieve their fallen comrades shot by pro-Misuari PNP integrees and mauled by civilians. PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN

REMAINS to be seen of the deadly encounter during a pro-Misuari rally between the Marines and the PNP-Special Mobile Group on Tuesday that left nine Marines, two Army men and 20 civilians dead.

PNP pulls out ex-MNLF men to defuse tension in Jolo

(From page A1)

(MNLF), who were integrated into the PNP and the AFP in 2000, four years after the MNLF, then chaired by Nur Misuari, signed a peace accord with the government.

Regular police personnel and soldiers from the Jolo Internal Defense Force (IDF) took over the posts vacated by the integrees.

The clashes over the past two days prompted three legislators from Mindanao—Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin, Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen and Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat—to call for a House investigation.

In the Senate, Sen. Ralph Recto suggested that either the Commission on Human Rights or the Department of Justice look into the encounters.

Recto said that those who took part in the mayhem be disarmed and confined to barracks.

In a hearing of the House defense committee, Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon warned of retaliatory attacks if the units of the Marines and PNP integrees were not pulled out from Jolo.

The hearing was attended by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Diomedio Villanueva.

Villanueva said he just talked with Mendoza, who "agreed to pull out the Sulu mobile group (the MNLF integrees)."

Reyes said Macarambon's proposal to pull out the Marines from Jolo would be "taken very, very seriously."

No military pullout

But after the hearing, Villanueva told House reporters that there be "no pullout of AFP troops from Sulu right now."

He said he could not commit a pullout without getting a recommendation of the Southern Command.

Mendoza directed Chief Supt. Acmad Omar, PNP regional director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), to coordinate with the IDF and the 104th Brigade of the Philippine Army "to restore order in the capital town and prevent confrontation" among police and soldiers.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel urged Interior Secretary Jose Lina, Mendoza, Reyes and Villanueva to immediately fly to Jolo to restore order.

Pimentel said the fighting could be stopped through the proper exercise of leadership.

"Otherwise, the conflict may spread over to the entire Sulu archipelago and even to different parts of Mindanao," he said.

The incident on Tuesday could have been caused by miscommunication between the PNP integrees and the Marines, according to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

Lack of communication

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay also lamented the lack of communication between the leaders of both forces that resulted in their shooting at each other.

He, however, stressed that the executive department, not the Senate, investigated the clash.

Magsaysay and Sen. Robert Barbers believed that either the Department of Interior and Local Government or the Department of National Defense should step in.

"There must be no *moro-moro* (staged) investigation. Our brothers in Sulu must be given real and fast justice because, if we know our history, the alternative is frightening," Recto said.

The PNP and the AFP are already investigating the clashes.

Director Nestorio Gualberto, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, sent three teams of investigators from Zamboanga City, the ARMM and Manila to look into the encounters.

Pending the results of the probe, the national police was standing by the version of police investigators in Jolo that it was a Marine soldier who provoked the armed encounter between Marine soldiers and PNP integrees on Tuesday, according to Maralit.

Gloria foes raising funds in US, Canada

(From page A1)

Tiglao of the PCA as "an assembly of two" was "silly and funny."

Sought for comment, Tiglao dismissed Moreno as "part of a cheap propaganda shot against this administration."

"At the very least, these persons whom Moreno claims to be speaking for are very much misinformed about what the Macapagal administration is doing for the cause of good governance," he said.

Tiglao also raised the suspicion that Moreno and his group could be linked to the PCA.

He said that as a standard procedure, he would ask that authorities look into the matter.

No names

Contacted by phone Tuesday afternoon, Moreno confirmed that he had sent the statement and said these fund-raisers had personal representatives in the United States and Canada.

He said their networking activities were also being conducted through long-distance phone calls, faxes and e-mails.

But he declined to identify the parties purportedly raising funds to be used against the Macapagal administration, and admitted that he had not reported the fund-raising activity to the Philippine consulate in Vancouver.

He described himself as a native of Nueva Ecija and a resident of Canada for the last 12 years.

In his statement, Moreno said the fund-raisers were operating in Filipino communities in California, Texas, Chicago, New York, New Jersey, Seattle and Las Vegas.

He said his company, which is engaged in trading equipment and parts, has offices in California, Texas and Chicago.

He also said that he and his Filipino friends had contacted relatives and colleagues here in the Philippines to find out their sentiments, and had discovered that they were discontented with the government.

Curiously, Moreno said public frustration over the government would soon be obvious when "they start putting black bands on their arms."

"How soon it is I am not really sure, but I think it might happen," he said.

PCA secretary general Linda Montayre had earlier issued a call for the people to wear black ribbons as a sign of protest during the ongoing commemoration of People Power II.

Noise barrage

Ousted President Joseph Estrada's sympathizers will stage a noise barrage tomorrow night to express indignation over Ms Macapagal's "failure" to uplift the poor.

One of Estrada's sons, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, will lead the noise barrage, according to the opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP).

The PMP has earlier lined up a series of peaceful protest activities—including vigils, candle lighting and a "black ribbon" campaign—to mark with "mourning" the anniversary of the uprising that unseated Estrada.

In a statement issued yesterday, the PMP said Ms Macapagal must be "awakened" in view of her supposed refusal "to hear the cries of the teeming millions of our poor and impoverished."

It said that the economy had become "the biggest victim of lawlessness," and that the President's "solution to the nation's problems are increased borrowing and foreign travels that bear no direct effect on the lives of the poor."

"A year after the false hopes raised by conspirators at Edsa Dos, are you happy?" the PMP said. "Do you feel safe? Are you and your property secure? Is there glory in your future?" ***With a report from Volt Contreras***

SPORTS ON TV
COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Australian Open at 8 a.m. on Sky Cable 29 and Home Cable 17
Hopman Cup 2002 - Spain vs Australia at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: US NCAA - North Carolina vs Florida State at 1 p.m., De Paul vs Cincinnati at 12 midnight on ESPN
NBA – Miami Heat vs LA Lakers at 10 p.m. on NBN 4
POOL: Rack 'Em Up - World Pool League Finals at 7 p.m. on ESPN
GOLF: 2001 Europro Golf Tour - Tour Championship Final Highlights at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Shark versus Montaña

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	9	4
ICTSI-La Salle	9	4
Welcoat	8	5
Kutitap	8	6
Blu	7	7
Ana	4	9
Ateneo	4	9
Montaña	4	9

Games Today
3:30 p.m.-Shark vs Montaña
5:30 p.m.-Ateneo vs Ana Freezers

DEFENDING champion Shark Energy Drink guns for the first automatic semifinals berth when it goes up against Montaña Pawnshop today in the last elimination outing of the 2001 PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Both the Power Boosters and the Jewelers need to win in the 3:30 p.m. encounter to avoid complications.

A Shark victory would avert a three-way tie for the lead, with Welcoat Paints grabbing the top spot should that happen.

Shark and ICTSI-La Salle will thus go into a sudden-death for the other semifinal slot.

Montaña, currently in a three-way tie with Ana Freezers and Ateneo-Pioneer with identical 4-9 cards, must also win to stay alive for the crossover quarterfinals.

NCRAA Today
(Lyceum Gym)
8 a.m.—DLSU-M vs AMACC
9:30 a.m.—PMI vs CDSL
11 a.m.—SBC vs DLSU-D
12:30 p.m.—PUP vs Lyceum

Ucap derby tonite

MORE than 50 fights are lined up in today's championship round of the "2nd Ucap/Blue Blade PE San Pablo 7-Cock Derby" beginning at 6 p.m. at Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

The favorites are five entries with three points each—Hammer Jr. (Benji Lim), Sir Vincent and King Boxer (Vic Yu), BJ Greenwood (Butch Macasaet) and Guts and Glory (Nelson Co and Alex Tang).

The entries with two victories apiece are Anito MB (Mauro Prieto), Firebird MB (Biboy Enriquez), Winning Time DVH Jobo (Rudy Salud), AT Alkalde Dominator (Mayor Gerry "Boy" Espina), Arnis Master I (Raymond Velayo and Butch Halili).

Meanwhile, about 40 cockers from Rizal, Pasig, Pateros, Ilocos, Pangasinan, Zambales, Zamboanga and Iloilo are seeing action in the upcoming "Pit Master 6-Cock Derby" on Jan. 22 and 24 to be hosted by Rey Lee.

Entry fee is P11,000 and minimum bet is P5,500. For inquiries, call 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

COURT CASE MULLED

Tanduay: No due process

BUENAVISTA

LOZADA

BY JUNE NAVARRO

TANDUAY officials yesterday cried foul over the P14.1 million penalty slapped by the PBA Commissioner's Office for allegedly violating the league's salary cap rules.

A reliable source told the INQUIRER that Tanduay bigwigs were contemplating appealing their case or even bringing the case to court, pointing out the decision of the PBA lacked due process to justify the huge fine.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Tanduay denied the existence of side contracts among its players and stressed the Lucio Tan-owned ballclub should not be penalized for non-disclosure.

"All our transactions with the Tanduay players were all above board. The decision of Commissioner's Office smacks of irregularity," the source quoted the Tanduay official as saying.

"How could we be fined for non-disclosure if we don't have anything to disclose at all," the official added.

The PBA Board of Governors affirmed the decision of the Commissioner's Office during their first monthly meeting last week that stripped Tanduay of its television revenue shares for 2001.

Another source said some of the Federal Express players acquired from Tanduay had separate special contracts aside from the Uniform Player's Contract (UPC).

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach FedEx president Lito Alvarez for comment.

After FedEx had consummated the sale with Tanduay and a couple of trades later, marquee players Noli Locsin, Bong Hawkins, Jason Webb, Dindo Pumaren, Zaldy Realubit and Wynne Arboleda were absorbed by the Express.

Yeng sends home import

BY ROY LUARCA

JULIUS Nwosu is in, but his fellow Nigerian Mohamad Acha will have to go.

Batang Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao said skill-wise, Acha is fit to be the Thunder's second import in the PBA Commissioner's Cup starting on Feb. 10. Poor health, however, did the 6-foot-6 shooting guard in.

Guiao bared that a few days after his arrival in Manila, Acha suffered from diarrhea. Acha, who spent most of his adult life in the United States, also suffered from heat exhaustion and had twice collapsed during practice.

"*Sayang* he's (Acha) good. We'll have to look for another guy that would complement the skills of Nwosu," said Guiao, who steered the Thunder to last year's Commissioner's Cup title.

Nwosu and Acha played together for Nigeria during the 1998 World Championships in Athens, Greece.

The beefy 6-foot-8 Nwosu is returning after a year's absence. He reinforced Purefoods in the 1999 and 2000 Commissioner's Cups, where he was largely inconsistent.

Iverson scores career-high 58

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson scored a career-high 58 points Tuesday, the most in an NBA game in almost two years and the fourth-highest total in team history, as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Houston Rockets 112-106 in overtime. Iverson shot 21-of-42 and made all 14 of his free throws for his seventh 50-point game, including two in the playoffs. It was the fifth 50-point game in the NBA this season, coming one night after Kobe Bryant scored 56 in just three quarters for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Iverson's previous career-high was 54, accomplished twice. The franchise record is 68 points by Wilt Chamberlain in 1968.

Cuttino Mobley scored 25 points to lead the Rockets.

Bucks 106, Pacers 102

In Indianapolis, Tim Thomas scored 25 points, and Sam Cassell and Ray Allen each had 23 as Milwaukee held off a late rally to beat Indiana.

The Bucks led by as many as 20 in the second half and by 15 early in the fourth before going almost 41/2 minutes without a basket.

COMPLETE RESULTS
Milwaukee 106, Indiana 102; Philadelphia 112, Houston 106, OT; Dallas 116, Atlanta 107; Toronto 92, Detroit 90; San Antonio 96, Washington 91; Minnesota 97, L.A. Clippers 83; Charlotte 94, Chicago 86; Sacramento 109, Cleveland 102. AP

Carrion throws support behind tennis VPs

CARRION

PSC Commissioner Cynthia Carrion once again proved her genuine concern for Philippine sports when she inducted the opposition's regional vice presidents (RVP) for the Philippine Tennis Association (Philta) recently.

"I believe in this cause which calls for major tennis reforms and I fully support these gentlemen specially after having met each and everyone of them. They are the kind of leaders that our country needs in order to improve and develop the sport of tennis," Carrion acknowledged during the formal induction over the weekend at the Tagaytay Highlands.

In the recent PSA Awards Night, Carrion did a patriotic act when she convinced President Macapagal-Arroyo to attend the ceremonies.

Carrion was overwhelmed with the determination of the newly elected RVPs to lead local tennis "out of the gutter" and she promised to share everything within her powers to ensure that the group's vision and mission become a reality.

At one point during the induction ceremony, Carrion even gathered the group for a pray-over for the speedy recovery of Marawi City RVP Duma Boloto's wife. Ms Boloto gave birth via ceasarian last week.

Boloto was inducted together with Ferdie Medina of Vigan (R-1); Deena Cruz represented her mother Ofemia Cruz of Ilagan, Isabela (R-2); Fraz Mamawal of Tarlac (R-3); Miguel Bichara represented Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara of Legazpi (R-5A); Efren Enverga of Naga (R-5B); Vice Mayor Dr. Rex Jalandoon of La Carlota City (R-6); John Pages of Cebu (R-7); James Ramirez of Zamboanga (R-9); Jimbo Chavez of Cagayan de Oro (R-10); and Jonathan Sanglay of Butuan (R-13).

Ormoc's Eliseo Yu and lawyer David Alarcon were indisposed but were represented during the induction rites witnessed by opposition leader Jovy Mamawal of the CTW group.

Registration deadline

PLAYERS who wish to join the Philta Classic Age-Group Tennis Championships have until 12 noon today to register at the Philta office (tel. 525-6434). Entry fee is P200 per category.

The tournament, slated Jan. 19-20 and 25-27 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center, will award 120 points to all the winners. Events on tap are boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under divisions.

Kafelnikov, Grosjean shock losers

MELBOURNE, Australia—Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Sebastien Grosjean lost at the Australian Open Wednesday, leaving the tournament without its top five men's seeds halfway through the second round, something that never has happened before at a Grand Slam event.

Alex Kim, an American college player who turned pro in 2000, won 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 against No. 4 seed Kafelnikov, the 1999 Australian winner and 2000 runner-up.

Spain's Francisco Clavet ousted No. 5 Grosjean 6-4, 3-6, 6-0, 5-7, 6-4, a day after the Frenchman woke up with a sore neck.

Kafelnikov, who had 55 unforced errors to 17 by the 23-year-old Kim, frequently punctuated his misses with muttering. He also served 10 double faults.

Kim, ranked No. 234, reached match point with a shot that ticked the top of the net and dribbled over. Kafelnikov ended the 1-hour, 42-minute match with a backhand into the net.

The second round had begun without the top three men's seeds - also unprecedented at a Grand Slam. No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt, still weak from chicken pox, and No. 2 Gustavo Kuerten both lost. No. 3 Andre Agassi, the 2000 and 2001 champion, withdrew because of a wrist injury before the tournament began.

Grosjean said he woke up Tuesday with a sore neck.

"My neck is painful. It stopped me from serving well and I couldn't hit the ball hard," he said. AP

NO. 3 Martina Hingis advances with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over German qualifier Greta Arn yesterday in the Australian Open. AP

Military becomes obstacle to Asiad-bound athletes

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

THE MILITARY's move to recall all enlisted men to undergo training for three months can jeopardize the country's preparation for the Busan Asian Games.

Reason: Potential Asiad gold medalists John Lozada and Eduardo Buenavista might miss reaching their peak during the September Games.

Lozada and Buenavista, SEA Games gold medalists, are among track and field athletes now in deep training for the quadrennial event. The others are Ernie Candelario, Fidel Gallenero and Dandy Gallenero, who also won gold medals in Kuala Lumpur.

All five are presently training in Baguio City. They are affected by the directive from Air Force chief Gen. Benjamin Defensor calling on enlisted men to report to their barracks for training.

Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok has appealed to Defensor to exempt the five.

"I'm sure the good general doesn't want to disrupt their (athletes) training and can make a way to excuse them," said Go, who is set to personally meet with Defensor to pursue his appeal.

"I don't think my athletes will make a difference in the battlefield the way they are making things happen in the track oval," added Go.

The last time athletics won a medal in the Asian Games was 16 years ago in Seoul, when the legendary Lydia de Vega defeated arch-rival Govindasamy Shanti for the century dash gold.

Go said Buenavista has a big chance of landing a gold in the 3,000 steeplechase because the 24-year-old SEAG double gold medalist is already norming 8:40.77 compared to the 2000 Asian Championship gold mark of 8:47.33 set by Qatari K. Abdullah.

Lozada has also submitted records surpassing 4As gold records in 800m and 1,500m. Lozada's SEAG winning record of 1:49.39 in 800m is already better than that of Iran's M. Jeloodar (1:49.80), while his 3:50.44 personal best in 1,500m surpassed Qatari M. Sulaiman's 3:52.47.

Telan kept for ₱13.3 million

TALK N Text matched yesterday the offer sheet of P13.3 million tendered by Alaska to Mark Telan.

Telan will get P335,000 a month the first year, P375,000 the second and P400,000 the last year in his three-year contract.

Team manager Frankie Lim said Telan's salary would fit the Phone Pals' salary cap, brushing aside speculations Telan might be traded.

OTHER MOVEMENTS: Vince Hizon might go to Batang Red Bull for P4-P6 million…Chris Tan and Gerald Francisco to Sta. Lucia Realty…Art Del Rosario to shell, which is pursuing talks with rookies Frederick Canlas, Cris Calaguio, Edwin Bacani and Rainier Sison… Jun Limpot and Bal David could be out of Ginebra… Rafi Reavis and Leo Avenido were shoo-ins to make it to Coca Cola. *June Navarro*

Assist Iloilo triathlon events, says Drilon

SENATE President Franklin Drilon will support the National Triathlon Trials 2002 and the 3rd Triathlon Inter-club Championship (the Iloilo Challenge) in Iloilo City on Jan. 26.

Drilon, a native of Iloilo, enjoined Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas "to extend all the necessary support and assistance to the organizers" as he expressed his full support to the two-in-one event that "will help our national sports program, put Iloilo in the triathlon map and boost our local tourism."

The Iloilo Challenge, presented by Rexona, Toyota and Pagcor and seen to add drama and color to the Dinagyang 2002, is to be upgraded in three years into an international event by the organizers, UP-Hamili-Hamilia Foundation Inc.(UPHHFI) and Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP).

Tom Carrasco, TRAP president, said: "We are greatly heartened by Drilon's gesture mirrored by the excellent preparations engineered by Pablito Araneta, the Iloilo Challenge executive director, with the full cooperation of the hosts, Province of Iloilo and City of Iloilo."

Top winners and performers in the trials and inter-club competition with Negros Navigation, Italit, Pioneer and Boysen Paints as major sponsors will earn berths in the national team/pool and to a leg of the Asian Cup circuit.

The Dinagyang Foundation, Department of Tourism-Region VI, Panay Amateur Radio Club and Iloilo Tourism Office together with the UP Hamili Brotherhood and UP Hamilia Sisterhood are working with the organizers for the success of the 1.5 kilometer swim, 40-km bike and 10-km grind.

Tuason: More gold medals in Busan Asiad

TUASON

THE TASK Force on the 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, has set the goal of not merely surpassing the lone gold medal output four years ago in Bangkok.

"We intend to put up a team that would bring home several golds, not just one," said Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chair Carlos Tuason. He heads the Asiad Task Force that got the ball rolling yesterday morning.

"We also intend to send a lean but fighting team, and make sure everybody on the team gets the proper training, equipment and foreign exposure to guarantee a respectable finish," he said.

Romeo Villanueva and Gandy Valle provided the country's lone gold medal from the billiards 9-ball doubles in the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games.

Billiards, Tuason said, can deliver more since Efren "Bata" Reyes has said he will play in the September Games. Reyes has also agreed to play in three events.

Taekwondo, wushu, boxing and golf were picked as gold medal potentials. But Tuason said the athletes must be better prepared both physically and mentally.

The Asiad is considered the Olympics of Asia where dozens of world champions from China, Korea, Japan and the former Soviet Republics are entered. There are 40 countries competing in the Asian Games, which flaunt more quality and quantity than the 10-nation Southeast Asian Games.

'Bionic Girl' leads RP Ladies Open; W'Wack entry 1 down

BY JONG ARCANO

JAYVIE Agojo, dubbed the "Bionic Girl," has another big mission in her hands.

Already cramming for her exams next week, the young Agojo first settled matters on the course with a one-over-par 73 to grab a one-stroke lead in the Philippine Ladies Open at Wack Wack west.

Agojo hardly had time to change her sweaty playing outfit into her immaculate OB Montessori uniform. From the course, off to school she went to attend to what remained of her classes for the day.

The 15-year-old Agojo, who earned her monicker after playing 14 straight rounds in different US cities last summer, survived her short game miseries to pace Wack Wack bet Heidi Chua by one and a feared entry from Hong Kong with a +3 handicap, Sarah Henderson by two.

Reigning champion Aileen Rose Yao made a respectable return from inactivity with her 76 and was all alone in fourth place in the tourney supported by PLDT, the Philippine Sports Commission, Carlos Palanca Foundation, Nice Shot DNF, Sentry Fire & Theft Safes and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

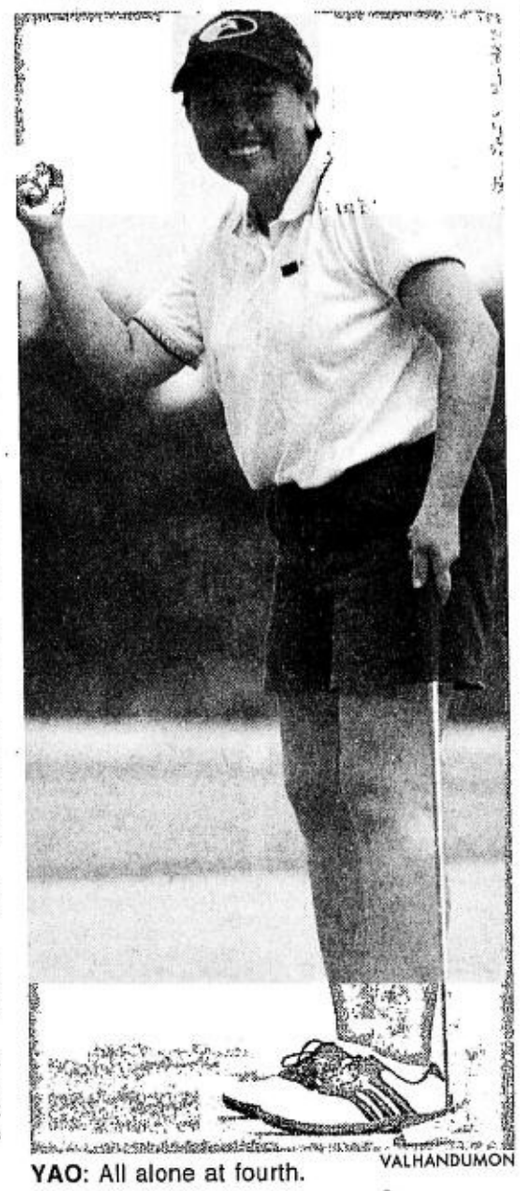
Ria Quiazon, the national team veteran taking a break from her studies at UCAL, led the group sharing fifth place after a 78. Eva Yoe of Hong Kong, and Lina de Guzman also had the same scores.

The opening round was marred by several no-shows and the most prominent absentee was SEA Games campaigner Carmelette Villaroman who begged off at the last minute apparently due to lack of practice. Erlaine Lumanog and Reb Bareng also failed to make it to their tee times.

"I wasn't too happy with my overall game. I'll try to drop by the range from school for a little practice later," said Agojo.

Agojo needed a couple of birdies on Nos. 12 and 13 to recover from a series of mistakes that started with a bogey on the par-5 seventh where her second shot landed right beside a huge rock.

She three-putted for a bogey on the 10th and on the 12th, she barely averted disaster with her clever decision. After her tee-shot went into the left bunker that left her with a difficult lie, Jayvie played out to the fairway but was still able to save bogey from there.



VALHANDUMON

YAO: All alone at fourth.

SPORTSWATCH

Friendship meet

TOP OFFICIALS in housing and urban development from both the private and government sectors will hold a friendship golf tournament on Jan. 24 at the Sta. Elena. The tournament is sponsored by the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association headed by Noel S. Gonzales. Call 899-8275.

Tablenet tilt up

THE TABLE Tennis Association of the Philippines (Tatap) will hold its quarterly national age group tournament on Jan. 18-20, Victor Valbuena announced. Call 522-1885 for details.

Trainer suspended

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico—Top quarter horse trainer John Bassett is banned from racing in New Mexico for 45 days because a horse in his stable tested positive for cocaine last summer. Bassett won last September's $2 million All American Futurity, quarter horse racing's richest race, with Ausual Suspect. He also won the race in 1999 with A Delightful Dasher. Mega Dark, a 2-year-old quarter horse trained by Bassett, tested positive for two derivatives of cocaine—benzoylecgonine and methyl ester ecgonine—after finishing fourth in a race last June at Ruidoso Downs. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Real Material 2. Mr. Speaker 3. Tribeca 4. Jubilee
Race 2—1. El Condor 2. Playing With Fire 3. Free Time 4. Mark's Treasure
Race 3—1. Gossip Column 2. Jackpot 3. Armee's Hope 4. Test Run 5. Magsaya
Race 4—1. Deputy Royale 2. Aya's Dream 3. Field Master 4. James Joy
Race 5—1. Nobel Prize 2. Alert One 3. Santa Fe 4. Nevada Dancer 5. Friends
Race 6—1. Gold Pyramid 2. Hacker 3. Kitty Hawk 4. Dynamite Miss 5. Jade Louise
Race 7—1. All Smiles 2. Lord of All 3. Silver Rose
Race 8—1. Golden Prince 2. Ananpour 3. Golden Child 4. So Generous 5. Raggedy Belle 6. Worth Ur While

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Cesar Aquino garnered 15.5 points over Catalino Pestaño Jr. to claim the 14th Philippine Artists chess championship at the Heritage House in Quezon City. Also today in 1997, Central Luzon Polytechnic College bagged all the golds at stake in badminton to reign in the 1997 State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association at the Nueva Ecija Athletic Grounds in Cabanatuan City.

RGFFP tourney gets going in 2 Baguio City venues

BAGUIO—More than 200 Rotarians from as far south as Davao tee off for the 16th edition of the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) tournament starting today, Jan. 17 in two venues here.

The Rotarians will play one round each at the Baguio Country Club and the Camp John Hay courses for team and individual honors.

This year's award for an ace is a luxurious Mercedes Benz donated by Rtn. Sevie Oliva of I-cars.com sales which will be at stake in eight par-3 holes, four in each host venue.

RGFFP chair Oscar de Venecia said sponsors include Taylor Made Adidas, General Nutrition Center, Menzi Company, Merisant Philippines Inc., Classica Suites, Country Club and Ultra Promo Craft.

Tournament director Pancho Perca, said the prevailing excellent weather will ensure the best possible scoring for the event.

Baguio and Boy Ampil are the defending champions.

In the RGFFP's 15th tournament at the Apo and Pancho Palos Verdes courses in Davao, Rtn. Nonoy Llamas of RC West Davao won a P1 million pot donated by Seaboard Eastern Insurance firm of Joe Halili-Co for scoring an ace.

The competition is open to teams representing Rotary clubs. Team members must be Rotarians in good standing. There will also be an individual competition in four categories.

Perth hosting Classic

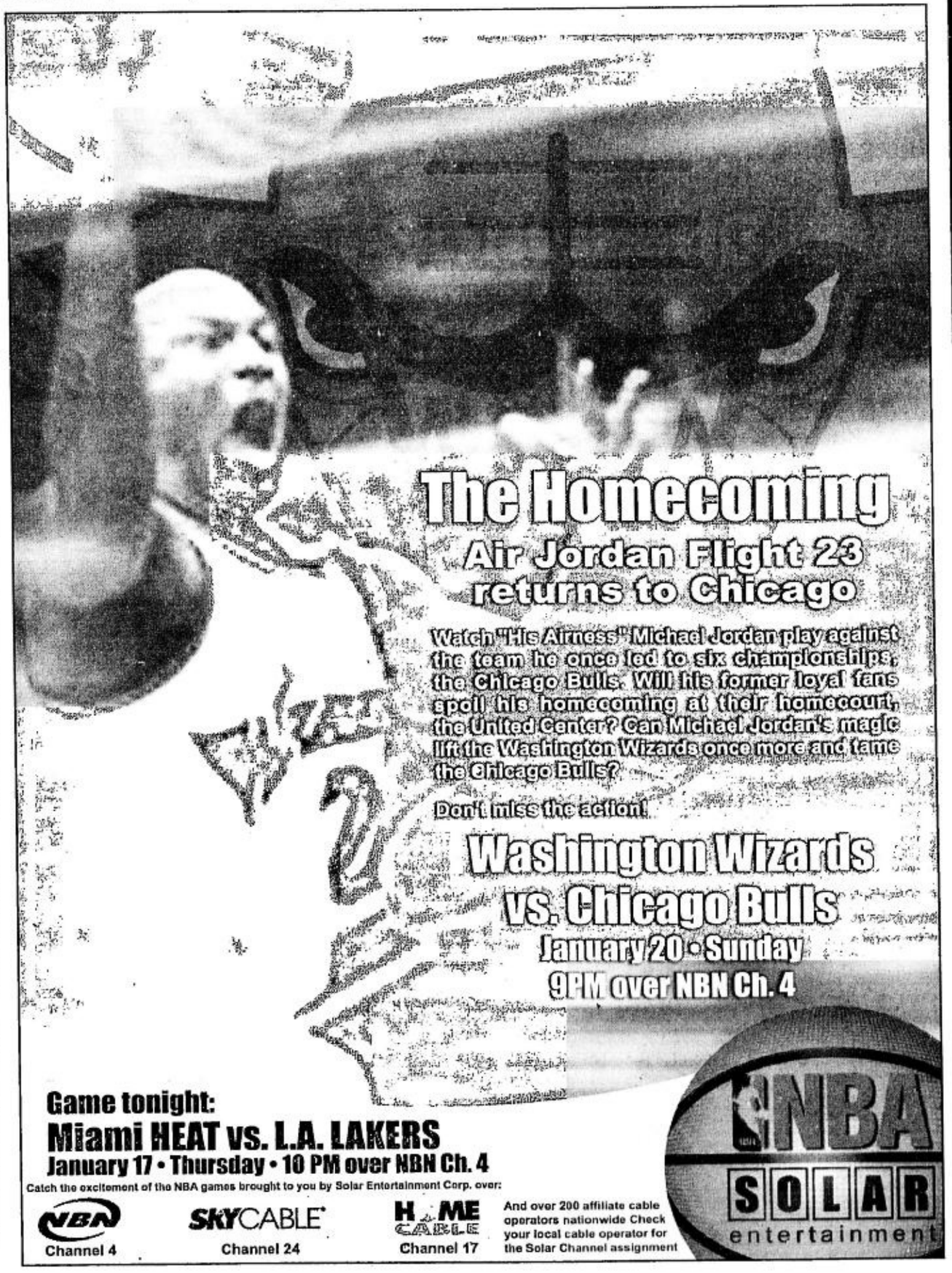
A CRACK 29-player field from the Asian PGA Tour led by No. 1 Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand, will be out to conquer the big names in the rich Johnnie Walker Classic when the $1.3 million event is played Jan. 24-27 at the Lake Karrinyup Country Club in Perth, Australia.

Jaidee, who earned a record US$353,060 in winnings on his way to topping the 2001 Davidoff Tour Order of Merit ranking, is one of seven Asian PGA Tour winners from last season who will hunt for fame and glory against many of the world's leading players.

The former Thai paratrooper captured the Wills Indian Open and recorded 10 top-10 finishes in an outstanding year on the Asian PGA otherwise known as the Davidoff Tour.

"I am looking forward to 2002 and more wins," he said. "The Johnnie Walker Classic is a big tournament and it is a great opportunity for me and the other Asian PGA players to show our talent."

Joining Jaidee in the fold are Korea's Charlie Wi and former Philippine Open Champion Anthony Kang, Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchant, Daniel Chopra of Sweden and Chinese No. 1 player Zhang Lian-wei and top Filipino shotmakers Cassius Casas and Gerald Rosales.



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1 of 200 4x4's
ISUZU 4X4

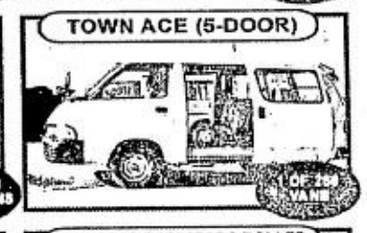
1 of 200 4x4's
MITSUBISHI 4X4

1 of 200 4x4's
TOYOTA 4X4

1 of 200 4x4's
MITSUBISHI DELICA 4x4 PASSENGER VAN

1 OF 250 PASS. VANS
MAZDA BONGO PASSENGER VAN

1 OF 250 PASS. VANS
LATE MODEL LITE ACE

1 OF 250 PASS. VANS
TOWN ACE (5-DOOR)

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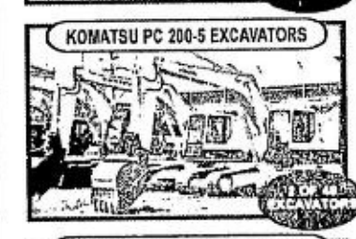
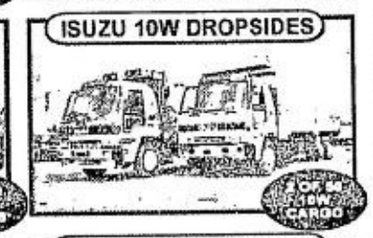
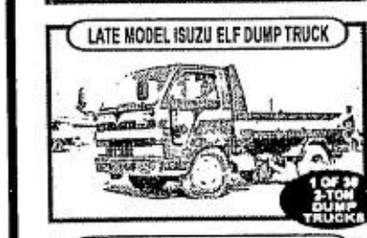
KOMATSU PC 200-5 EXCAVATORS

1 OF 40 EXCAVATORS
DYNAPAC CA25 VIBRO ROLLER

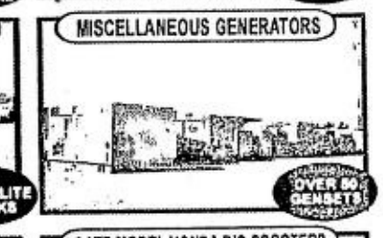
ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCKS

2 OF 50 DUMP TRUCKS
ISUZU 10W DROPSIDES

1 OF 50 10W CARGO
ISUZU 10W TRANSIT MIXER

ISUZU ELF DROPSIDE SINGLE TIRE

LATE MODEL ISUZU ELF DUMP TRUCK

1 OF 20 2-TON DUMP TRUCKS
ISUZU FORWARD DROPSIDE

1 OF 20 4-TON CARGO
SUZUKI 4x4 LITE TRUCKS

2 OF 50 LITE TRUCKS
MISCELLANEOUS GENERATORS

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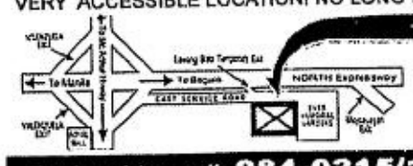
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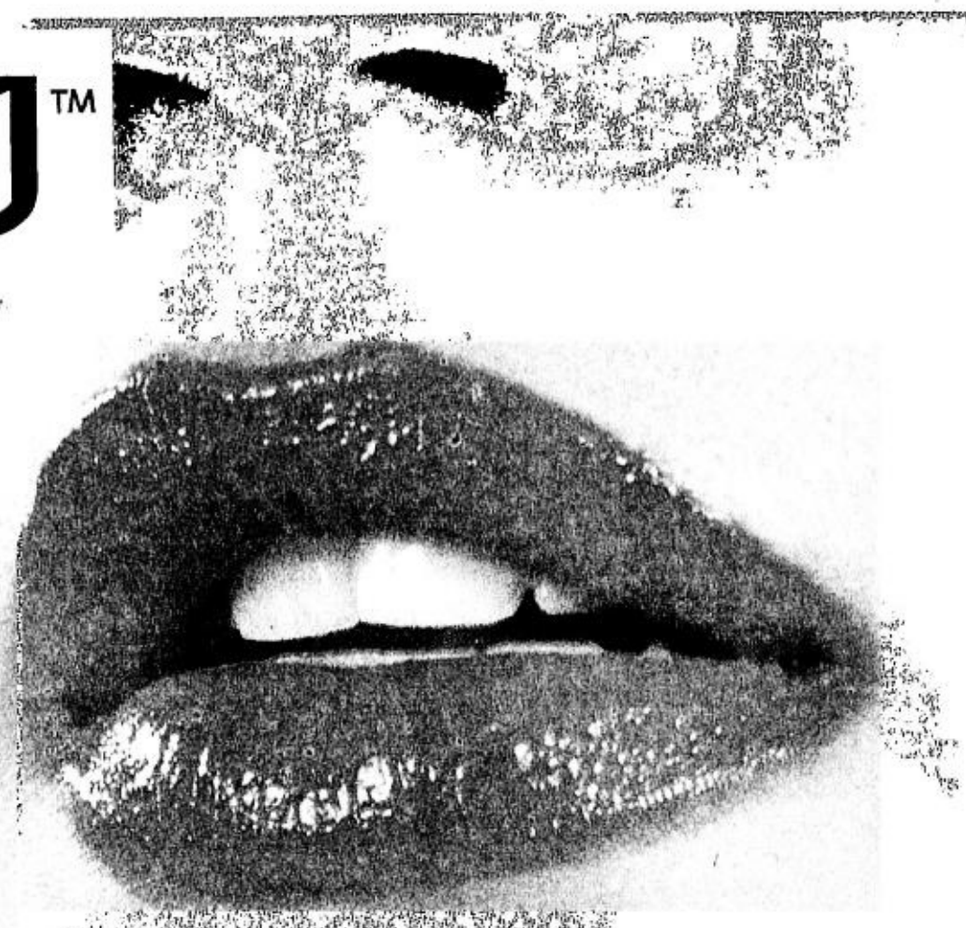

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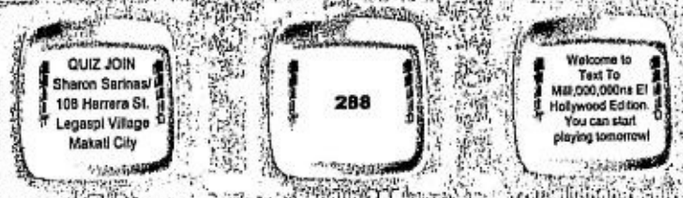

TO RECEIVE THE DAILY QUESTIONS

Once you join, you will receive daily questions from the quiz host at 7:00 am and 12:00 pm. Just reply to the SMS.

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

Key in QUIZ <space> QUESTION NUMBER <space> ANSWER
Example: QUIZ A and send to 288

TO QUALIFY FOR THE RAFFLES

Correct answers = Points = Raffle entry

TO VIEW RAFFLE ENTRIES

Key in QUIZ ENTRY and send to 288. You must join and answer daily to accumulate points and raffle entries. Miss a day, and your chances of winning will be affected. Keep on playing to win!

TO GET KEYWORDS FOR THE GAME

Key in HELP QUIZ and send to 288.

Promo period, draw dates and prizes are as follows:

WEEK	Draw Dates	Prizes
Week 1	January 14, 2002	P50,000.00
Week 2	January 21, 2002	P50,000.00
Week 3	January 28, 2002	P50,000.00
First Monthly Draw	February 4, 2002	P100,000.00
Week 4	February 11, 2002	P50,000.00
Week 5	February 18, 2002	P50,000.00
Week 6	February 25, 2002	P50,000.00
Second Monthly Draw	March 4, 2002	P200,000.00
Week 7	March 11, 2002	P50,000.00
Week 8	March 18, 2002	P50,000.00
Week 9	March 25, 2002	P50,000.00
Grand Draw	April 1, 2002	P1,000,000.00

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Lawyers to fight Lenny Villa verdict A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

On Target: American presence in Basilan justified A22

Terror cop kills La Salle guard on Taft Avenue

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

TERROR gripped passersby when a policeman-bodyguard of an affluent De la Salle University student shot dead the school's front gate guard on Taft Avenue over a parking altercation on Tuesday.

School guard Edgar de Guzman, 42, of Saint Anthony Street BF Road, Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, died of four gunshot wounds, one in the head, three below the right nipple.

The police immediately launched a manhunt for the suspect, PO3 Allan Biol, 35, married, a resident of 56 Sampaloc St., Comembo, Makati.

Biol, of the PNP security and protection office based in Camp Crame, Quezon City, is assigned to Cecilio Pedro, president of Happy Toothpaste, said Supt. Frederico Castro, WPD-Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit chief.

The suspect hit De Guzman four times—once in the head, twice in the chest, and once at the side of his body.

Probers said the shooting happened around 4:50 p.m. Tuesday in front of the De La Salle campus along Taft Avenue, near the McDonald's outlet.

Biol arrived at the school driving a Nissan Terrano (with plate number WEN-329), to fetch Pedro's children.

He parked the SUV near the front of the gate, but the victim told him to move the vehicle farther down the road.

De Guzman must've thought the suspect did not mind his instruction as Biol drove up and parked the vehicle some "six to seven meters" from the gate.

The security guard was wrong.

Biol next jumped out of the SUV and sought out De Guzman.

The suspect then allegedly berated the victim.

At the height of the verbal exchange, Biol allegedly pulled out a cal. .45 pistol and pumped four bullets into De Guzman's body.

The suspect then fled on foot, abandoning the Terrano in front of the school. De Guzman was brought to the Ospital ng Maynila where he was declared dead on arrival.

There were reports the suspect might be turned in late today.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

CHECKING THE SHADOWS

Amid coup rumors and brewing protest actions, Marines, seen here covering ground, are ready to protect Malacañang to make sure there is no danger lurking in the shadows.

Gov't needs stronger, clearer order to restore order at toll gates

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

HAS the President really ordered the suspension in the increase of toll rates at the South Luzon Expressway and the Skyway system?

Tempers flared up yesterday at the road systems amid "unclear and conflicting" reports that the collection of the new toll rates has been suspended.

Motorists and collectors, who remained at odds, blamed the mess on poor information dissemination as confusion marred the controversial toll rates order.

MACAPAGAL

Angry motorists using the Skyway refused to pay the new rates, citing the supposed suspension order from Malacañang.

But those manning the toll gates stood their ground and refused to yield to the motorists' badgering.

Toll rates at the Skyway, they said, were not covered by the suspension.

Heated arguments resulted in long queues of vehicles at the toll gates.

"The problem really is information dissemination," taxi driver Willy Gomez said in Filipino, blaming operators of the road systems for the confusion.

"Authorities should have made sure that everybody knew about the new toll rates and about the suspension," he added.

Last week, President Macapagal suspended the collection of new toll rates at the North and South Luzon expressways after numerous complaints from motorists.

The suspension, too, triggered confusion as some motorists thought it covered the rates at the Skyway system.

The suspension was to end today, but the President reportedly extended it for 60 days following a meeting with operators of the road systems.

Hundreds of residents in southern Manila have threatened to stage protest actions to pressure the Supreme Court into nullifying the provisional increase in toll rates.

The high court has ordered the Philippine National Construction Corp. and the Toll Regulatory Board to justify in writing the increase in toll rates.

But until yesterday, toll collectors were insisting the new rates were justified.

The PNCC operates the North and South Luzon expressways, while the TRB was responsible for approving the new toll rates.

Inmate starves to death after bad cell phone deal

AGNES E. DONATO

IT all started with a failed cell phone deal.

An estafa suspect died inside his detention cell in Quezon City on Tuesday evening after refusing to eat for two days because of depression.

The victim, identified as Manuel Lao Jr., 32, of N. Domingo Street, Cubao, QC, died after experiencing convulsions.

Lao was accused of estafa for allegedly failing to give his part in a mobile phone deal.

He had been detained at the Central Police District Station 7 in Cubao since Jan. 12.

But PO2 Jojo Miranda, case investigator, said the actual cause of Lao's death had yet to be determined.

Investigation showed that Lao started skipping his meals starting Sunday.

The victim, who was separated from his wife, had reportedly been experiencing self-pity during the past few days because nobody had been visiting him in jail.

At about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, SPO1 Jose Gil Gregorio of the CPD Station 7 found Lao trembling inside his detention cell.

Policemen in the station then brought Lao to the nearby hospital in Camp Panopio, where the latter was pronounced dead on arrival at around 7 p.m.

Lao's body was brought to the Philippine National Police crime laboratory for autopsy. *With a report from Leslee Anne Monilla*

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American presence in Basilan justified

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE MACAPAGAL-ARROYO administration should ignore the protests of the opposition and leftist groups on the deployment of American troops in Basilan.

Instead, the President and her advisers should take heed of the voice of the Silent Majority. These are citizens who favor the participation of US troops in the search for and rescue of an American couple and a Filipino nurse in Basilan.

If a poll were to be conducted today throughout the country, most of the citizens would say, yes, they want American troops in Basilan to fight the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf.

***

C'mon, guys, forget your foolish pride! Let's also set aside— for a while only—that impractical provision in our Constitution that prohibits the presence of foreign troops on our soil.

The Americans are here to help us fight terrorism, a global menace. We can't handle terrorism on our own. The Abu Sayyaf receives support from al-Qaida, an international terrorist group.

If the United States, the mightiest country in the world, call on other countries for moral and material support in fighting terrorism, why can't a small nation like us do so?

***

Some so-called nationalists would surely accuse this writer of having a colonial mentality for being "pro-American."

I was born after the United States gave us back our independence on July 4, 1946; so my mind is neutral— neither "pro" nor "con"— toward America. If I love some things American—like Hollywood movies— it's because most of us Filipinos do. We were born to them.

But are we really "colonial-minded" if we allow Americans to stay in the country for the duration of the international war on terrorism?

If Filipinos who think that American troops should stay are guilty of having "colonial mentality," then the Japanese, Singaporeans, South Koreans and Germans also suffer from the same mentality because their countries play host to US military bases.

***

I don't think the clash in Jolo, Sulu, between the Marines and some Moro policemen, who are former rebels, was started by the Marines.

Nurshida Julambri, a government employee, said the firefight started when a Marine trooper allegedly lobbed a grenade at a rally being held by civilian supporters of detained Moro leader Nur Misuari.

If I know the Marines, I think Julambri was lying. A Muslim will almost always side with fellow Muslims when non-Muslims are the enemy even if his fellow Muslims are at fault.

***

Why would a Marine trooper in his right mind throw a grenade at civilians? Even if they're pro-Misuari, they're still civilians.

Marines, the best disciplined soldiers in the Armed Forces, have been taught to be friendly with civilians. Marines court the sympathy of civilians because they can act as soldiers' "eyes and ears." That's why in all places that the Marines have been assigned to, civilians cry when the troopers leave for other assignments.

Investigators should not readily believe Julambri's statement.

***

The victims in that police-Marines firefight were not the fatalities on both sides—nine Marine troopers and three police integrees—but innocent civilians. At least 20 civilians were killed in the crossfire.

More frightening is the aftermath of the shootout. The Marines will avenge their dead comrades, that's for sure.

Of course, retaliation will be followed by counter-retaliation. Jolo will again become a battleground, this time between allies.

***

It's just as well that Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, has ordered the arrest of any policeman or military man who would take part during the pro-Erap rallies that started yesterday.

Mendoza has apparently received an intelligence report that some policemen, as well as military men, would be mobilized by pro-Estrada forces for the rallies.

My mole within the pro-Erap group said they had met several times to map out plans for the rallies aimed at allegedly destabilizing the present administration.

***

In one of those meetings, presided over by El Shaddai founder Mike Velarde, Sen. Gregorio Honasan was present along with self-proclaimed civil society leader Linda Montayre, according to my mole.

Talking in behalf of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, his classmate at the Philippine Military Academy, Honasan is reported to have said: "Gentlemen and lady, some generals, senior and junior officers of the AFP and PNP are now with Senator Lacson." Or words to that effect, my mole said.

***

Some top officials of a medium-sized bank are said to be in cahoots with a syndicate victimizing insurance companies, according to reliable sources in the insurance business.

Their modus operandi consists of accepting fraudulent checks supposedly in payment for auto insurance claims.

The bank officers allegedly accept "crossed" or "for deposit only" checks which are later re-discounted or encashed by the syndicate.

***

How does the syndicate go about its illegal activity?

An insurance client, whose car was involved in an accident, would ask his insurance company to pay for the repair of the car. The syndicate, through insurance adjusters, would ask the owner to have his car fixed at a repair shop in cahoots with it. The repair shop would appraise the damage to the car at, say, P200,000 when the actual cost of the repair is only P20,000, for example.

The adjuster would submit the appraisal cost to the insurance company which then writes out a check for the car owner.

But the car owner, his car already fixed, no longer knows or cares about the amount of repair. Although the check with the bloated amount is in his name, he doesn't know that the syndicate has gotten hold of it.

The bank, through its corrupt officers, allows the encashment of the crossed insurance check even without the payee's signature at the back. In most cases, the payee's signature is forged, according to my sources.

Makati public school pupils face 'eviction'

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THOUSANDS of public school pupils in Makati City could end up "school-less" if the local government would not heed a Department of Education, Culture and Sports order transferring land titles of public schools to the DECS.

With this threat, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday defied the order of Norma Rosco, DECS officer-in-charge on school titling and acquisition project.

Rosco had earlier threatened to evict 400 public schools in Makati, Quezon City and Manila if the respective city governments would not turn over the land titles to these schools.

Rosco started a word war with Binay for claiming that the City of Makati was using the land titles to these schools as bank collateral to secure loans.

"Not only did she imagine a confrontation with the former mayor, Dr. Elenita Binay, she also imagined the city government of Makati hocking the land titles to our schools. This official has a very fertile imagination," Binay said, who also sought apology from Rosco.

The City of Makati has allocated some P259 million for education for this year. The amount excludes the budget for the construction of new school buildings and regular repairs of existing ones.

'We do not, and will not, resort to this malpractice," Binay said. He added that it was "bizarre" that public schools face eviction because of the refusal of local governments to turn over the titles to the department.

"Will it be the education department evicting schools from lands owned by local governments? Frankly, I cannot reconcile the image of the Department forcing students out of their schools with its constitutional mandate to ensure access to education for all Filipinos. Why transfer it when the land is already government property?" Binay asked.

Instead of picking fights with the local government officials, Binay said the education department should instead "explore other means to strengthen its partnership with local governments in extending quality education to our youth."

Lawyers join hands to fight Villa verdict

BY AGNES E. DONATO

FRIENDS and former classmates of hazing victim Lenny Villa, most of them now working as lawyers, yesterday vowed to combine their legal expertise to get a reversal of a recent Court of Appeals ruling on the case.

Lawyer Robert Navera, Villa's batchmate when he was a neophyte of the Aquila Legis Fraternity, expressed disappointment over the CA ruling which acquitted 19 and convicted only two of the 26 Aquilans accused of killing Villa.

He also assailed Justice Eubolo Verzola's decision which found the four other fraternity men guilty of slight physical injuries.

"Any logical mind would know that what Lenny sustained were much more than slight physical injuries for the simple reason that he died of them," Navera said.

He however refused to give any further comment regarding the case for ethical reasons.

Aside from Navera, other friends and classmates of Villa showed up yesterday in the press conference organized by the Crusade Against Violence.

Among them were Villa's fellow neophyte, Caesar Asuncion; Villa's law school classmates Anton Kho and Marizel Gacutan; and Villa's classmate since grade school, Jom Pacheco.

All of them conveyed their support to a teary-eyed Mrs. Gerarda Villa, mother of Lenny.

For her part, CAV national president Carina Agarao said that the focus of her group right now was on the legal aspect of the case.

Agarao reiterated that they would be filing a motion for reconsideration before the 15-day deadline so that the appeals court could see the hazing case from the point of view of the victims.

"Since we are not the type who take to the streets to fight for our cause, we will just make sure that we build a strong legal foundation for our case," Agarao said.

Illegal vendors give way to road project

BY AGNES E. DONATO

ABOUT 800 ambulant vendors yesterday vacated their illegally built stalls willingly to give way to a much-delayed road-widening project on Litex-Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

A composite team of demolition crews from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Department of Public Works and Highways and the city government also demolished a Central Police District detachment (see right photo) on Litex road at the corner of the IBP Road and Commonwealth Avenue.

The police detachment was supposedly built there to curb the growth of illegal stalls, but city hall authorities allegedly found out that the vendors also connected illegally to the detachment electric lines.

The demolition crews met little resistance from the vendors, who were earlier given a January 15 deadline by the DPWH to vacate the road lanes.

The vendors, who practically occupied three of the four-lane highway, had been the subject of numerous complaints from motorists and local residents because of the heavy traffic they cause in the area.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said the demolition was "a result of a long and arduous effort to address through peaceful means the perennial problem of illegal vending at Manggahan Road."

"I believe that it is but fitting and proper that we bring back the road to its rightful owners and users," Belmonte said.

He also assured the displaced vendors that the city government would provide them with alternative vending sites so they are not deprived of their livelihood.

About 70 police personnel will be deployed in the area for a month to ensure that the vendors do not return.

A SCENE after the demolition of the controversial police station on Commonwealth Avenue. VAL HANDUMON

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, January 17, 2002
1st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **1 S 4:1-11**
Gospel: **Mk 1:40-45**

A leper came to Jesus and begged him, "If you so will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." The leprosy left the man at once and he was made clean. As Jesus sent the man away, he sternly warned him, "Don't tell anyone about this, but go and show yourself to the priest and for the cleansing bring the offering ordered by Moses; in this way you will make your declaration."

However, as soon as the man went out, he began spreading the news everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter any town. But even though he stayed in the rural areas, people came to him from everywhere.

Commentary

Reaching out and touching eliminates isolation and desolation. Jesus teaches us that taking the initiative and reaching out to the person's real situation are needed to succeed in our ministry and apostolate. God does not want us to be separated from him/her or from others; we are persons not just individuals. In our modern world too often we are identified with a number, our ID is a number; no wonder that when someone calls us by name and touches our life, we feel recognized, accompanied, saved. Time heals a wound but leaves a scar. Our concern and closeness to other heals and revives. We are to touch the wounds and eradicate the leprosy of hatred, divisions, and rejection that marks our antisocial society. The Lord teaches this lesson today.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Complaint must state cause of action—The rules of procedure require that the complaint must make a concise statement of the ultimate facts or the essential facts constituting the plaintiff's cause of action. A fact is essential if it cannot be stricken out without leaving the statement of the cause of action inadequate. A complaint states a cause of action only when it has three indispensable elements, namely: (1) a right in favor of the plaintiff by whatever means and under whatever law it arises or is created; (2) an obligation on the part of the named defendant to respect or not to violate such right; and (3) an act or omission on the part of such defendant violative of the right of plaintiff or constituting a breach of the obligation of defendant to the plaintiff for which the latter may maintain an action for recovery of damages. If these elements are not extent, the complaint becomes vulnerable to a motion to dismiss on the ground of failure to state a cause of action. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Uy v. Evangelista, G.R. No. 140365, July 11, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

UST could be paralyzed by employees' strike

BY JEROME ANING

ABOUT 600 non-teaching personnel at the University of Sto. Tomas in Sampaloc, Manila will hold their strike vote tomorrow after a deadlock in their collective bargaining agreement with the school management.

The Samahang Manggagawa ng UST—composed of office staff, laboratory personnel, general services staff and publishing house workers—filed a notice of strike with the Labor Department's National Conciliation and Mediation Board last Dec. 14.

Union president Arturo Sangalang said in an interview that their strike would surely paralyze the operation of the university, which is run by the Dominican Order.

He claimed the management panel's "obduracy" had left the union no option but to go on strike.

The union identified 31 deadlock points in their CBA, including wage increase, hospital benefits, medical allowance, hazard pay, sick and emergency leaves, multi-purpose loan, overtime pay and retirement plan.

Sangalang said the school management refused to specify any proposal or counter-offer on 18 of those points.

"Instead of bargaining, the management has imposed a "take it or leave it" stand in our negotiations," Sangalang said.

The union also claimed that, for the past six school years, their share in the tuition fee collection remained at a steady P15 million, despite several tuition hikes imposed by UST.

The employees have been wearing black ribbons since last month to symbolize their protest of the deadlock. They have also held four noise barrages.

Motor sports awards tonight

THE AUTOMOBILE Association Philippines (formerly Philippine Motor Association) will hold the 7th AAP Motorsports Awards presentation tonight at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City.

Top race drivers in the different motorsports fields for the previous year will be honored.

The National Drivers Championship was created by the AAP to give due recognition to the achievements of the drivers in the different AAP-Sanctioned races.

For more information on tonight's presentation please contact the AAP at tel. no. 723-0808 and ask for Margie or Dennis.

Trinidad Calar, 83

TRINIDAD M. Calar, of Libagon, Southern Leyte and Roxas District, Quezon City, died from a lingering illness on Monday at the age of 83.

She is survived by her husband Rodrigo; children, Consuelo and Ruben, Carolina and Jimmy, Rodrigo Jr. and Leni, and Carmencita; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her body lies at Chapel A of Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred tomorrow to the Holy Family Parish Church mortuary on Lilac Street, Roxas District, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Ever Memorial Park on Saturday after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Miriam HS fair

MIRIAM College High School will hold its annual fair starting today until Saturday at its grounds on Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City. Called "S3" which stands for Share, Serve and Shine, the fair aims to help in the institutional fundraising for the School Endowment Fund which supports students deserving financial aid. A variety show on Jan. 18 and a dance on Jan. 19 will also be held from 8 to 12 midnight

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

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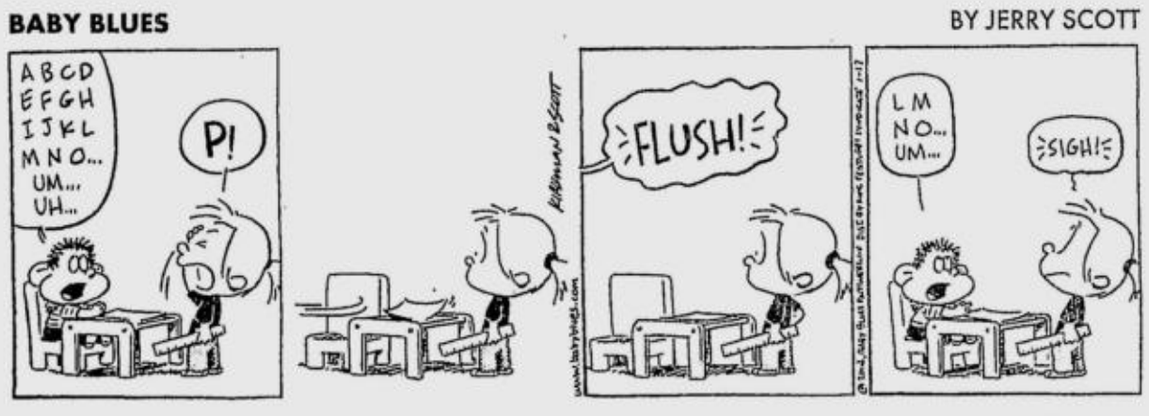
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL CUISON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Betty White, Jim Carrey, James Earl Jones, Maury Povich

Happy Birthday: You will impress those around you with your colorful and unique approach to life. Your positive actions will bring good results and you should be able to persuade others to help you along the way. Your numbers are 9, 12, 24, 33. 36, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will find it easy to research and investigate anything that you have been questioning. Avoid secret affairs, regardless of the temptation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A generous, outgoing, knowledgeable approach will make you a true asset to any group that you join. Be prepared to face some opposition along the way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Unusual circumstances will evolve around work and with those you work with. You must avoid getting involved in your co-workers' personal problems.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make new friends if you participate in groups that interest you. Creative outlets will help ease your tension.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will have good fortune when it comes to your home and family. You will do well working from your home or running your own small business.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll have no problem attracting partners or friends today. You'll do well working within large organizations that are fighting for a cause you believe in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You are eager to get ahead in your chosen field and will rely on all the knowledge that you've acquired. You'll be giving, sensitive in your response to others, and will get the support you need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be intuitive today. Focus on yourself and your goals. Don't be afraid to ask for favors. Career changes look positive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You won't have a clear picture of your position or of your relationship today. You will have a tendency to avoid your responsibilities, which will result in problems at work as well as with your partner.

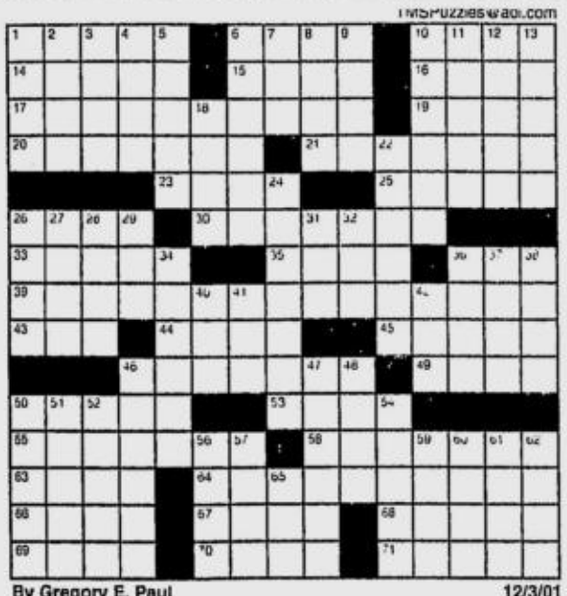
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be attracted to organizations that deal with human issues that concern you. Mingle with people who can help you achieve your dreams, hopes and wishes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be tempted by get-rich-quick schemes today that will leave you cash poor if you aren't careful. Learn the value of a peso.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your efforts into learning something new instead of trying to make changes at home. You should get involved in new social activities.

Birthday Baby: You were born with intuitive insight into matters of truth. You possess a strong will and mental independence. You will develop unusual friendships. You are generous to the people you care about.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA
12/3/01

ACROSS
1 Glaswegians
6 Tropical tree
10 Splash in the shallows
14 Nurse Barton
15 Ron Howard role
16 Spoken
17 Under the weather
19 Repair
20 Hyde Park, Mayfair, etc.
21 Intrinsic nature
23 Broadway persona
25 Come in
26 Chip in chips
30 Cincinnati pros
33 Swindle
35 Evans or Carnegie
36 Crude shelter
39 Absolute fabrication
43 Wildebeest
44 Cold feet
45 "My Cousin Vinny" co-star
46 "Guys and Dolls" composer
49 Porgy's love
50 Old anesthetic
53 Slaughter in Cooperstown
55 Spectral
58 Colliery
63 Cincinnati pros
64 Removed from reality
66 Therefore
67 Latin love
68 Awards honcho
69 Twixt 12 & 20
70 See regularly
71 Squalid

DOWN
1 Flat-bottomed boat
2 Mystery pointer
3 Feel one's __
4 Lively pace
5 Freer from risk
6 French dog
7 Car-payment fig.
8 Low-cal
9 Base meal?
10 French novel, "The __ Room"
11 Looks __ everything
12 Rain or war follower
13 Mormon leader
18 Elitist
22 Elite
24 Sign a check
26 Highly excited
27 Person, place or thing
28 Ballerina's skirt
29 Hot-dog's problem?
31 Babe
32 Foamy brew
34 Exertion
36 Word with base or plate
37 Shoshones
38 In __ day and age
40 Teensy
41 Owns
42 Reply to a smash
46 Class exercise
47 Additional performance
48 Skyline component
50 White heron
51 In that place
52 Charlie or Percy
54 Fills to excess
56 Cargo
57 Arizona city
59 Togo's capital
60 Dark grayish brown
61 Type of tea?
62 People in general
65 Small child

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	A	S	H	A	S		S	E	A	P	O	R	T	S
A	C	T	I	V	E		T	A	I	L	C	O	A	T
S	H	A	M	A	N		A	R	M	A	T	U	R	E
T	I	M		T	A	P	I	N		T	A	S	T	E
R	E	P	E	A	T	E	D		L	I	N	E	A	L
A	V	E	R	R	E	D		B	O	N	E	D	R	Y
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I	D	S		A	T	L	A	S	E	S		R	U	B
			S	P	H	E	R	E			L	E	V	I
P	A	S	T	E	U	R		C	R	U	E	L	E	R
A	L	T	A	R	S		S	T	A	N	D	A	R	D
S	K	I	R	T		D	E	S	K	S		P	A	S
C	A	L	L	U	P	O	N		E	N	I	S	L	E
A	L	T	E	R	E	G	O		R	A	R	E	L	Y
L	I	S	T	E	N	E	R		S	P	A	R	S	E

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12/3/01

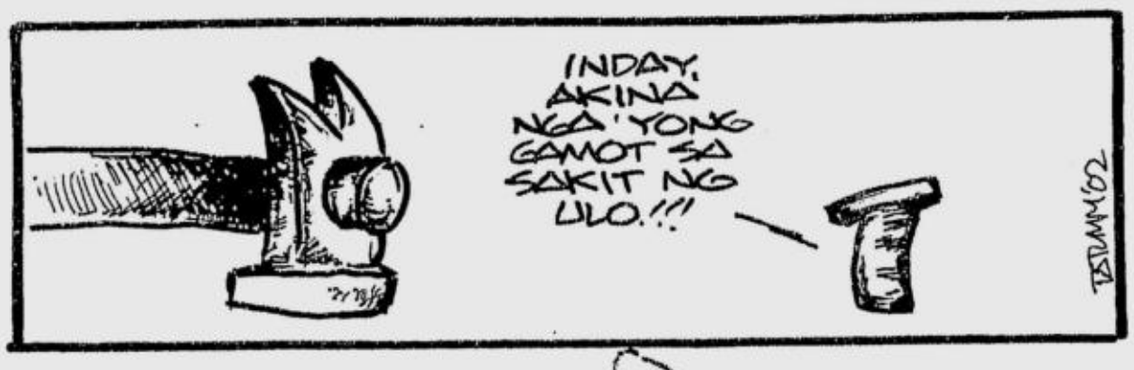
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



Dudikoff returns in 'The Shooter'

C-INTERACTIVE Digital Entertainment releases the newest Western film, "The Shooter," starring Michael Dudikoff of "The American Ninja" fame.

Dudikoff plays Federal agent Michael Atherton, a decorated war veteran who changes a town with no laws, ruled by fear and greed. Instilling confidence and enforcing laws, Michael swiftly and efficiently institutes new attitude throughout the town.

For inquiries, call the Customer Care Hotline at 245-5011 to 12 (Manila), 032-412-1948 (Cebu) and 082-221-0405 (Davao).

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1 BEHIND ENEMY LINES — In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	1 ZOOLANDER — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	5 THE LORD OF THE RINGS — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 THE KING IS DANCING — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 BEHIND ENEMY LINES THX — In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 ZOOLANDER — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 SPY GAMES — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 AMERICAN ADOBO — In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES — In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 AMERICAN ADOBO — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 AMERICAN ADOBO — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES THX — In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 THE LORD OF THE RINGS — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 THE LORD OF THE RINGS — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 THE LORD OF THE RINGS — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 BURLESK KING — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	4 BAGONG BUWAN — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	Art Film	4 WEEKEND W/ POPS JAN. 18, 19, 25 & 26 - 9:00 PM Onstage	4 SPY GAMES — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 ZOOLANDER — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA
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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	GLASS HOUSE
2 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 GOLD (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
6 GOLD (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
8	AMERICAN ADOBO
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	BURLESK KING

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	BURLESK KING
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BURLESK KING
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BURLESK KING
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	BUKO PANDAN

METROPOLIS star
543.3927 loc. 150

1	WALANG IWANAN
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BUKO PANDAN
5	BURLESK KING
6	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TATARIN
2	SPY GAMES

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	RESERVE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
A	BUKO PANDAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	WALANG IWANAN
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BUKO PANDAN
5	BURLESK KING
6	AMERICAN ADOBO
7 (DTS)	ZOOLANDER
8 (SDDS)	SPY GAMES
9 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	BUKO PANDAN

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BURLESK KING
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
5	HUBOG
6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	BAGONG BUWAN
9	WALANG IWANAN

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
6	BURLESK KING
7 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	HUBOG

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BURLESK KING
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BUKO PANDAN
5 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BURLESK KING

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BURLESK KING

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	BUKO PANDAN
Lords	BUKO PANDAN
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BURLESK KING
3	BUKO PANDAN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	BURLESK KING

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4	BURLESK KING
5	LORD OF THE RINGS

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BUKO PANDAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BURLESK KING

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BURLESK KING
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BURLESK KING
2 (DTS)	AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	ZOOLANDER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2 (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BURLESK KING

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	HUBOG
2	MUSKETEERS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown (Tarlac)

1	THE SCORE
2	SPY GAMES
3 (DOLBY)	BURLESK KING
4 (DTS)	WALANG IWANAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BURLESK KING
4 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BURLESK KING
5	GIRL FEVER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BURLESK KING
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249-2558

1	ZOOLANDER
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	SPY GAMES
2	WALANG IWANAN
3	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BURLESK KING
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4806

1 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SAPAGKAT KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	WALANG IWANAN
3	BURLESK KING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	SAPAGKAT KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	SPY GAMES
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	WALANG IWANAN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 (DTS ES)	BURLESK KING

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GALLERIA 632-9115-16 / 633-7041 loc. 279

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	SPY GAMES
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	ZOOLANDER
7	GLASS HOUSE
8	ON THE LINE
9	BUKO PANDAN
10	BURLESK KING

ERMITA 536-7009 TO 12

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BURLESK KING
4	SPY GAMES
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
7	ZOOLANDER

METRO EAST 632-9115-15 / 633-7041

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	SPY GAMES
6	BUKO PANDAN
7	ZOOLANDER
8	BURLESK KING

NOVALICHES 935-3220 to 31

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	ZOOLANDER
5	SPY GAMES
6	BURLESK KING
7	BUKO PANDAN
8	AMERICAN ADOBO

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	ZOOLANDER
3	AMERICAN ADOBO
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	BURLESK KING
6	BUKO PANDAN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0483 / 0458

1	SPY GAMES
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	AMERICAN ADOBO
4	DREAM GIRL
5	SUSMARYOSEP (4 FATHERS)
6	WOLF GIRL

ILOILO (033) 330-0077 / 8078

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	WOLF GIRL
3	SAPAGKAT KAMI'Y TAO
4	ON THE LINE
5	2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
6	MUSKETEERS

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BURLESK KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	AMERICAN ADOBO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ZOOLANDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BAGONG BUWAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SPY GAME
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BUKO PANDAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG / BEDROOM SECRET
ODEON	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
ODEON-2	BURLESK KING
ROBEN	BUKO PANDAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE HOLE · EARTHQUAKE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR-2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BURLESK KING
B	BUKO PANDAN
	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-2	BUKO PANDAN
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BURLESK KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
CINEMA-12	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-14	SPY GAME
CINEMA-15	AMERICAN ADOBO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SPY GAME
CINEMA-2	ZOOLANDER
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-4	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-6	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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1	BUKO PANDAN
2	ZOOLANDER
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BURLESK KING
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6	AMERICAN ADOBO
7	HUBOG
8	BAGONG BUWAN

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 -7181416

1	BURLESK KING
2	ZOOLANDER
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BUKO PANDAN
5	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	HUBOG
7	SPY GAMES
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	BAGONG BUWAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	HUBOG
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	WALANG IWANAN
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	BURLESK KING
7	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	ZOOLANDER
9	SPY GAMES
10	BAGONG BUWAN
11	ON THE LINE
12	BUKO PANDAN

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	SPY GAMES
3	ZOOLANDER
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	ON THE LINE
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	BUKO PANDAN
8	GLASS HOUSE
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	BAGONG BUWAN
11	HUBOG
12	BURLESK KING

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	GLASS HOUSE
6	ZOOLANDER
7	BUKO PANDAN
8	HUBOG
9	BURLESK KING
10	AMERICAN ADOBO
11	BAGONG BUWAN
12	ON THE LINE

SM TUTUBAN 2514302

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4	BURLESK KING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9205452

1	SPY GAMES
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	BUKO PANDAN
4	BURLESK KING
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	ZOOLANDER
7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	YAMASHITA
10	BAGONG BUWAN
11	HUBOG
12	ON THE LINE

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888 / 806-6782

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	SPY GAMES
3	ZOOLANDER
4	GLASS HOUSE
5	BAGONG BUWAN
6	HUBOG
7	BURLESK KING
8	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
9	LORD OF THE RINGS
10	BUKO PANDAN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820905

1	BUKO PANDAN
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	BURLESK KING

SM CEBU 2313876

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	GLASS HOUSE
4	SPY GAMES
5	GIRL FEVER
6	BRO
7	WALANG IWANAN

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
2	CLOSED
3	MUSKETEERS
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	WOLF GIRL
6	ON THE LINE
7	CLOSED
8	SAPAGKAT KAMI'Y TAO

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	SPY GAMES
4	AMERICAN ADOBO
5	DI KITA MA-REACH
6	BURLESK KING

SM SUCAT 8294075

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BURLESK KING

SM DAVAO

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	GIRL FEVER
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	BRO
6	SPY GAMES

dts DIGITAL SOUND · DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Ex-macho dancer brother of Princess tells all

IT'S not easy to grow up in the shadow of a famous mother *and* a sister. Whether you like it or not, you will always suffer by comparison and be given little leeway for your mistakes. You must live up to a certain image.

But the late *Tita* **Helen Vela**'s son and **Princess Punzalan**'s half-brother **Ben Hernandez** (namesake of his deceased father) refuses to be stigmatized. He has enough spunk in him to break the mold and find his own niche.

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Some years back, tabloids were splashed with stories about Ben's foray into macho dancing in gay bars. It shocked everyone because Tita Helen and Cess are known to be devout Born-Again Christians. Ben and Cess even had a falling out for a while, but God surely restores relationships.

Now Cess and Ben have never been closer. Proof is, she helped Ben do the layout and edit his four controversial books. He writes unabashedly about his experiences as a macho dancer. Somewhere in the steamy story line lies a redeeming factor waiting to be acknowledged.

He offers no apologies. Being true to himself is what counts. "I don't like writing fiction," he says. "So much fabrication. Isn't it better to write about something you really went through than concoct some lies?"

Ben's books are titled "Bayaran," "Si School Boy, Si Kolboy," "Si Adan, Si Esteban" and "Honey." Their cover alone would surely raise eyebrows. It pictures Ben himself in thought-provoking poses.

He realizes, though, that his books have a select market. "I'm disappointed that some bookstores turned me down.

"They don't want to sell my books but that's not going to stop me. I have a message to share. I just hope people don't judge me before reading my work to find out what I have to say."

Ben has surely learned his lessons well. Just like all of us who've been in the dark and who suddenly see the light, Ben knows that even in the ruins you can still find some beauty.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare @yahoo.com or wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

Would you like to be a star?

ACT Entertainment Inc. is looking for males and females 7 to 40 years old to be part of its talent pool. Applicants will be screened and will undergo workshops and personality development seminars to prepare them for films, TV, theater and commercials.

Raymond Bagatsing and his wife Lara Fabregas-Bagatsing, both actors, are behind ACT Entertainment.

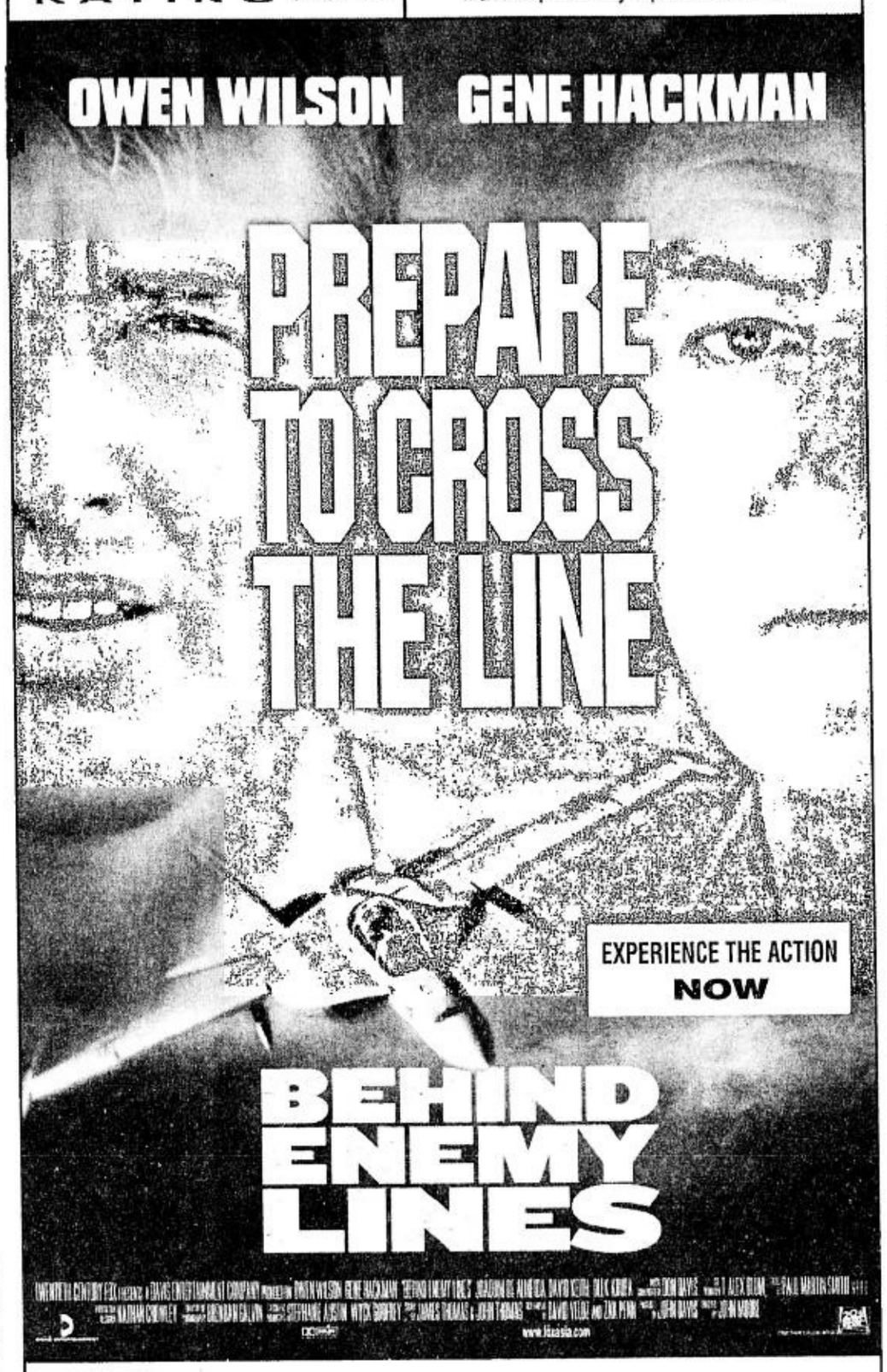
For details, call 687-1855 or 56.

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GREENBELT
NOW SHOWING
Art Film

MTRCB RATING R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS.
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

THE KING IS DANCING
(Le Roi Danse)
A film by Gérard Corbiau
JAN 15 TO 19, 2002
At the age of 14, Louis XIV knows that he'll rule France one day, but he also knows that everything will be done to prevent this from happening. It gives him a complex. Through dance, at which the young king excels, and through the music he creates for him, Lully, the royal composer, reveals the boy's true nature to himself and to society at large.
Cast: Claire Keim, Benoit Magimel, Boris Terral, Tcheky Karyo, Cécile Bois, Colette Emmanuelle, Johan Leysen, Stéphane Idwig
NEXT ATTRACTION
TEARS OF THE BLACK TIGER (Restricted 18)
JAN. 20 to 22, 2002

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



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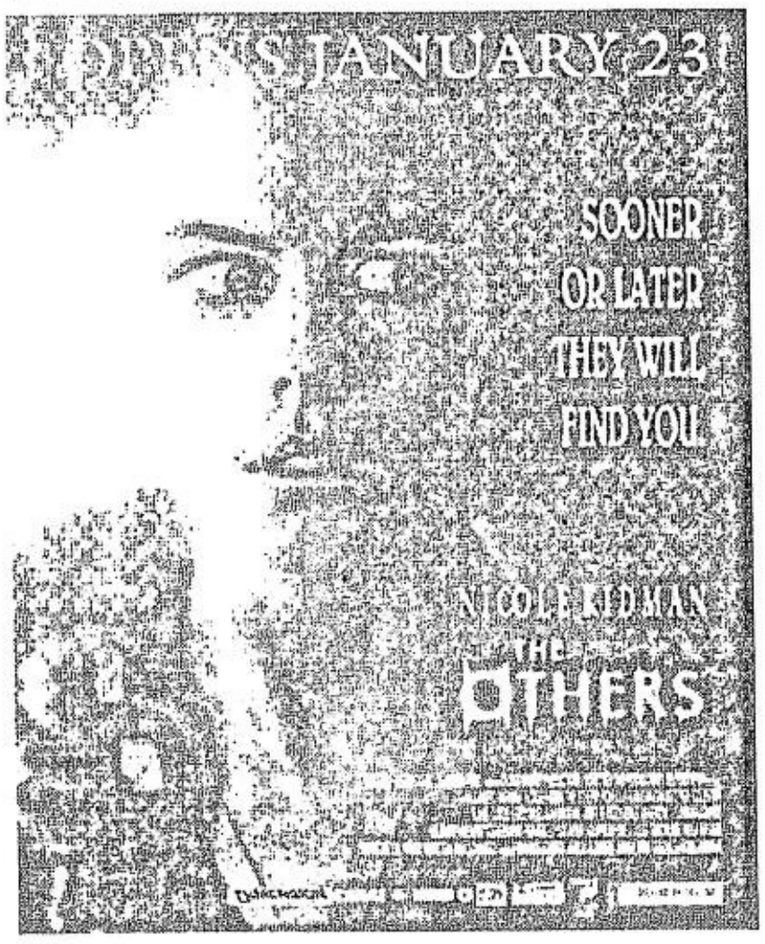
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. Nos. 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

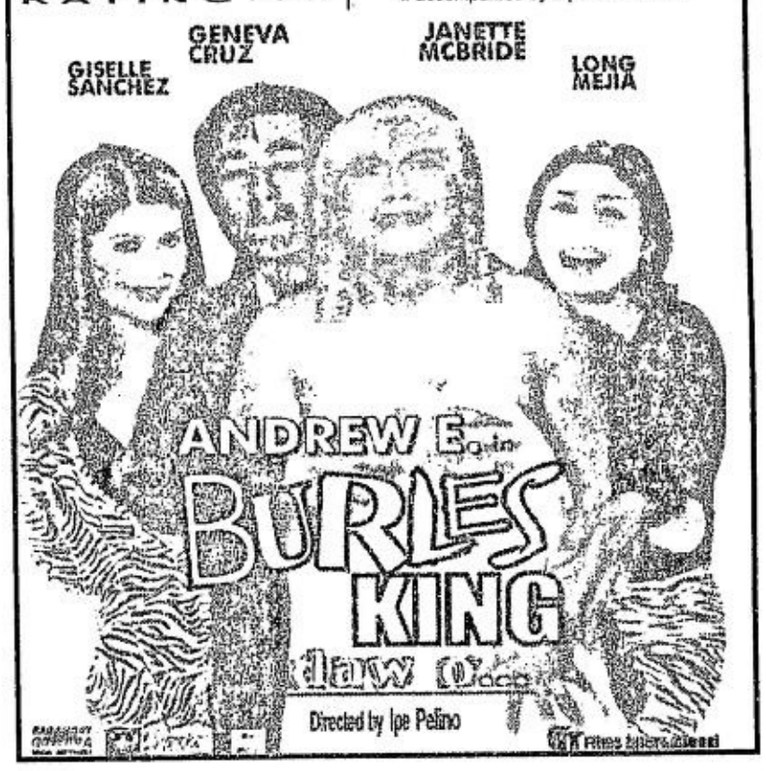
SPY GAME - P13 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50	ZOOLANDER - P13 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	AMERICAN ADOBO - P 13 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 11:50, 3:20, 6:50, 10:20	BEHIND ENEMY LINES - P13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	BEHIND ENEMY LINES - P13 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

OPENS JANUARY 23



Move over... The Munnaks
Ang Bayaning Kilig
to the Bones
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



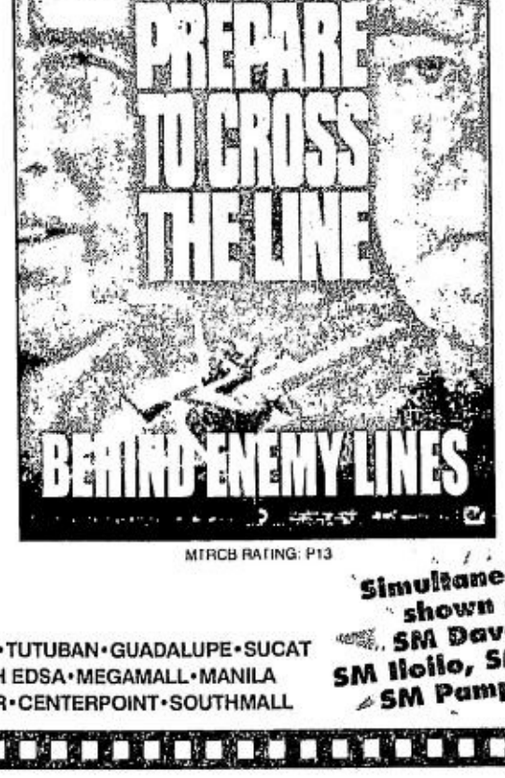
If you want to see it first!
SM CINEMA

Advance Screening

Invitational DWTM Screening on Jan.17, 2002 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 1
MTRCB RATING P13

Regular showing starts Jan. 23 at the SM CINEMAS.

SM CINEMA
NOW SHOWING



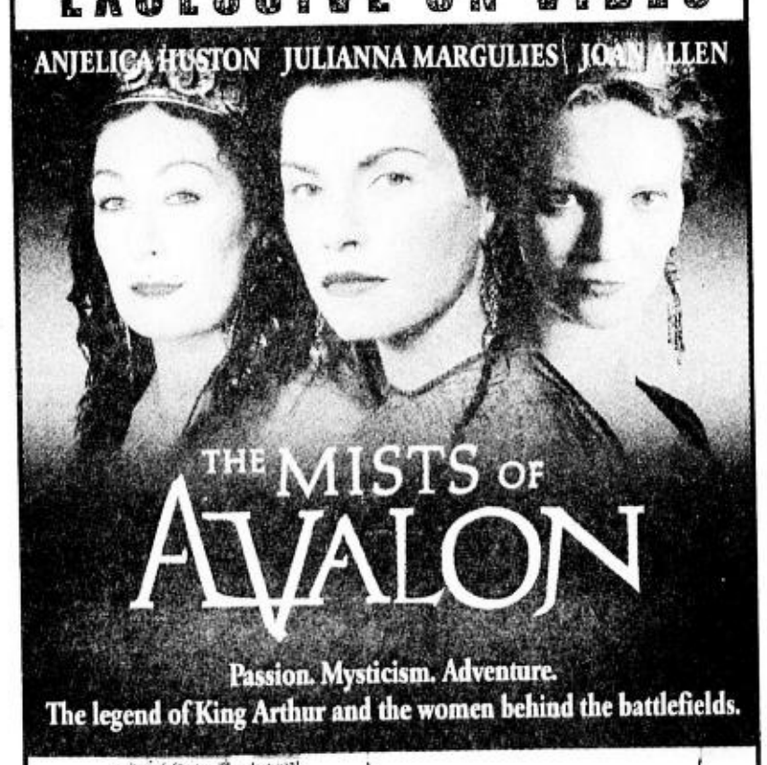
MTRCB RATING: P13

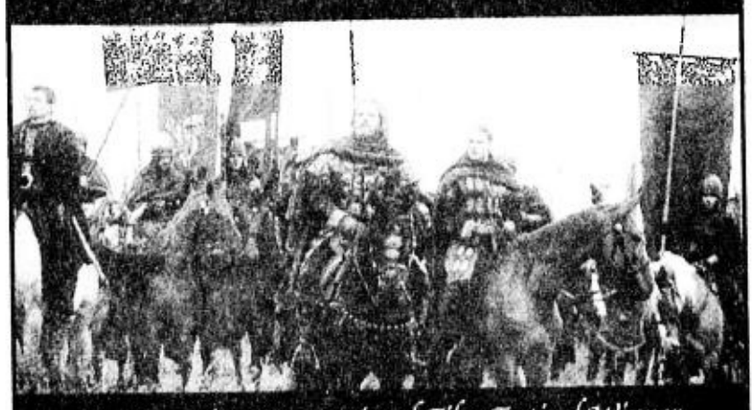
FAIRVIEW • TUTUBAN • GUADALUPE • SUCAT
NORTH EDSA • MEGAMALL • MANILA
BACOOR • CENTERPOINT • SOUTHMALL

Simultaneously shown at SM Davao, SM Iloilo, SM Cebu, SM Pampanga

RELAX & SEE A MOVIE

EXCLUSIVE ON VIDEO

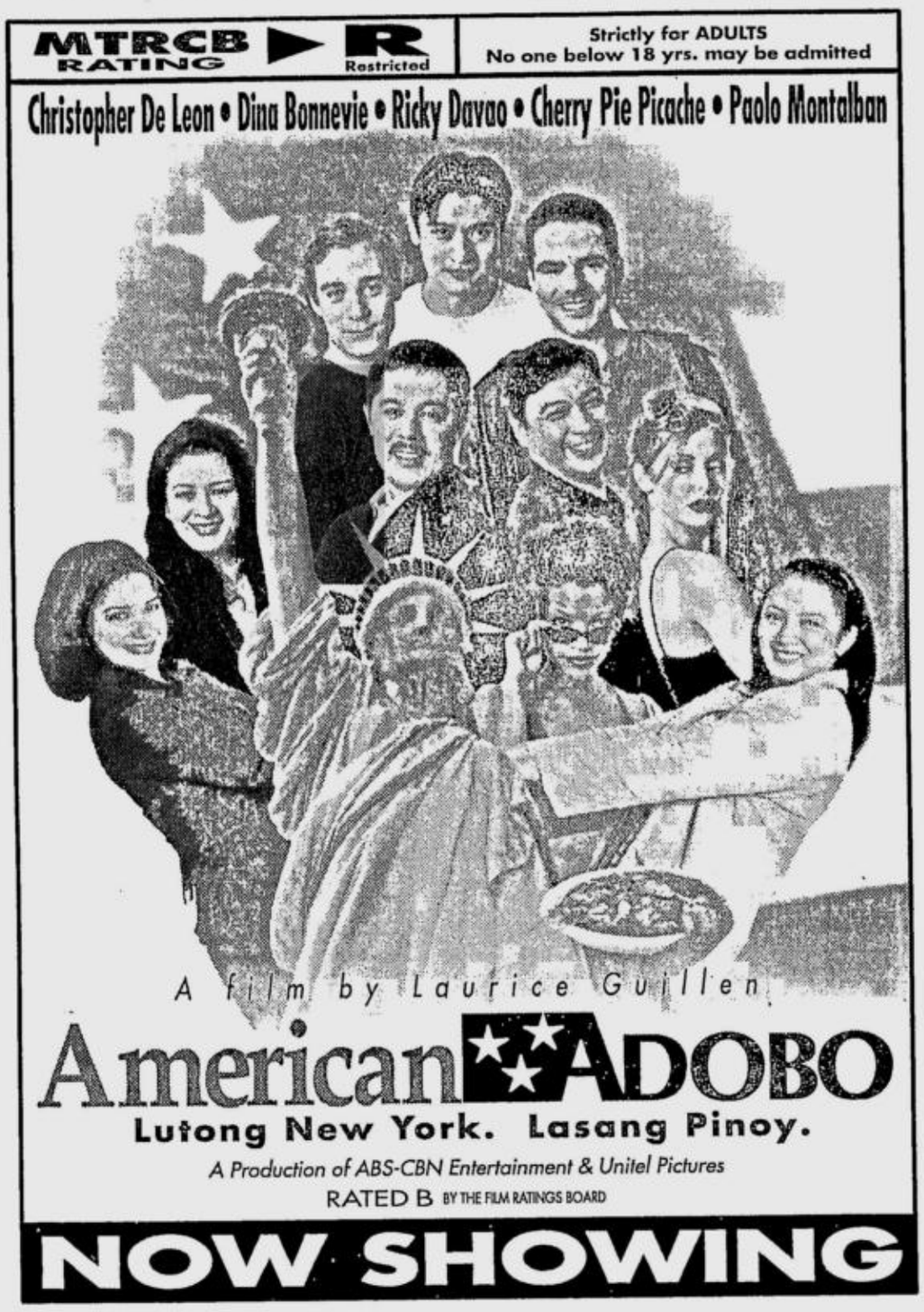




San Francisco International Film Festival Winner
Best Television Drama Series
"RIVETING... STUPENDOUS"
San Francisco Chronicle
"STERLING PERFORMANCES"
– Robert Bianco, USA TODAY

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



What makes reality TV shows tick and click

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

REALITY TV is now a big hit, not just in the States and Europe, but also in the Philippines. Last Monday night alone we caught a total of three such programs—Channel 9, 6:30 p.m., "Real TV," Channel 23, 7:30 p.m., "Hidden Camera" and Channel 9, 8 p.m., "World's Most Amazing Videos."

What makes these shows tick and click? Some chronicle disasters, others dramatize courage in real-life situations, and still others variously bank on crime, humor, wild inventions, crazy characters, and booboos during supposedly solemn occasions like weddings and funerals.

These shows also have an eyewitness or peephole aspect to them that appeals to amateur crime sleuths or out-and-out voyeurs.

Last Monday, the most interesting features we watched were security-camera shots of a bank robber forced to beat a hasty retreat after being pounced on by two female bank tellers; an entire town devastated by a powerful earthquake; and a chariot rider hurled 30 feet into the air during a race but still emerging relatively unscathed.

Often on the shows, the words "incredibly" and "miraculously" were used like mantras to describe how people survived disasters or accidents that viewers presume to be fatal.

This element is also powerfully attractive because it shows God's hand at work in the toughest of times.

One of the shows, "Hidden Camera," has a practical-joke aspect to it that makes the program come across like "Candid Camera" with a sadistic streak to it.

Last Monday, one of the show's pranks involved making some diners believe that they had just been poisoned, so they had to swallow a worm (!) that was supposed to suck in all the toxin.

One of the diners was so distraught that she broke into tears before the TV pranksters revealed that they were just "kidding." Some "joke"! It's a good thing that "victim" didn't sue the program for televised vexation.

JOSH Hartnett in "Black Hawk Down."

Feedback

FROM (Mr.) **Loi Reyes Landicho** of Makati City: "**Cesar Montano**'s sarcasm in his MMFF acceptance speech was certainly uncalled for. However, I can only empathize with him and the other actors in 'Bagong Buwan.'

"I won't discuss the merits of 'Yamashita,' which deserved no more than the second best picture prize. I would rather talk about the pluses of 'Bagong Buwan:'

"Movies are fiction. Expecting fiction to be truthful is an act of inanity. In fact, cinema is an attempt to imitate life and to redefine it. 'Bagong Buwan,' however, is more than a story, it is life itself. To say that it ably transcends the boundaries of fiction and reality would be an understatement.

"What made 'Bagong Buwan' remarkable is that it did not hypocritically offer solutions to the Moro-Christian problem. It however roused understanding as to why the conflict in the south persists.

"The performances were exceptional. **Jiro Manio** is amazing. Producers should give this boy other assignments while he's still a kid, lest he suffer the fate of **Niño Muhlach** . . .

"Well-researched films are a rarity in local filmdom. We should be thankful for having a brilliant director like **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**. Sadly, her efforts were overlooked by the filmfest jurors . . .

"In the end, intelligent viewers of Filipino movies will be the judge. The support of a majority of viewers for 'Bagong Buwan' is solid proof that it was the best in the filmfest."

'Black Hawk Down'

AFTER "Gladiator," **Ridley Scott** has come up with another remarkable film, "Black Hawk Down." In fact, the movie has been cited as one of the 10 best films of 2001 by some reviewers. Some even venture to describe the production as "the most unforgettable war movie ever."

That may be a bit much, but film buffs are agreed that Scott has another winner in his hands with "Black Hawk Down." It is based on the botched October 1993 mission into Mogadishu, Somalia, in which 18 US soldiers died and 73 others were injured.

With his film, Scott sought to create an unflinching, uncompromising portrait of war, with all its attendant horrors, heartbreak—and acts of heroism.

"Black Hawk Down" stars **Josh Harnett**, **Ewan McGregor** and **Eric Bana**.

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Tariff on raw materials to be cut to 1%

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will sign this month two executive orders that will reduce to one percent the tariffs on 1,000 product categories, including raw materials and semi-processed goods not produced locally and several agricultural products.

The Federation of Philippine Industries reported that the Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters Committee has submitted to Malacañang the draft EOs implementing the proposed tariff adjustments on raw materials not locally produced and other goods. The TRM is hoping that the tariff adjustment would spur government's efforts to lower the cost of doing business in the country.

Although the FPI has yet to get a copy of the list of products covered by the EOs, it is hoping that it would include the 250 products that the group recommended to the government last years.

These products include malt, hop cones, and vegetable saps and extracts for San Miguel Corp.; various chemicals endorsed by the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng Industriyang Kimika and Philippine Phosphate Fertilizer Corp.; coal briquettes for the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp.; raw materials for tires and automotive batteries, steel products, electronic goods, and textiles.

The FPI said the EOs, which are awaiting the endorsement of President Macapagal and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, would be released within the month. The first EO will cover goods not produce locally while the second would cover sensitive agricultural products.

The FPI has spearheaded businessmen's clamor to grant duty-free status on raw and semi-processed raw materials not available locally. The FPI claimed that the tariff adjustment—from 3 percent to zero—would have minimal impact on government revenues.

But the Department of Finance had agreed to a tariff adjustment to only one percent in order to cut the potential losses in revenues from the tariff cut to P800 million compared to the P1.2 billion in foregone revenues if duties were reduced to zero.

The FPI is pushing for zero duties in order to generate significant savings from the waiver on duties of their raw and semi-processed materials.

FPI said there should be no duties on these goods because there were no local industries to protect as these were all sourced from abroad.

In an earlier meeting with FPI officials, the DOF said that duty-free status would only be limited initially to capital equipment imports of export enterprises and that the granting of zero duty in the future would be made on a case-to-case basis.

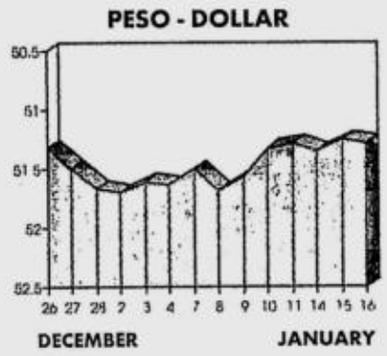
The DOF disappointed the FPI members who noted that the zero-duty proposal was one of the major recommendations made by the business sector to Ms Macapagal.

Earlier, Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the Cabinet-level TRM had agreed in principle to approve the proposal pending a more thorough review of the impact of the waiver of duties on the government's tax collection efforts.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

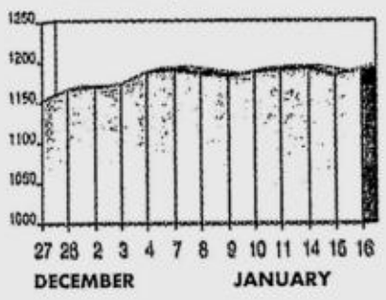
₱ 51.28 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 16, 2002

¥ 131.44 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 16, 2002

GOLD:$288.50/289
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 16, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Property firms lift stock mart

SHARES closed higher yesterday, bolstered by rebounding property stocks on the continued softening of domestic interest rates, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed 9.74 points, or 0.8 percent, higher to 1194.58 after losing 7.89 points Tuesday at 1184.84.

The broader All Shares Index also advanced 5.62 points to 696.69 after declining 2.18 points to 691.07 Tuesday.

Turnover rose to 951.21 million shares worth P493.26 million from Tuesday's 328.45 million shares valued at P351.78 million.

Gainers beat losers 50 to 16, with 30 issues unchanged.

Leading advancers are Ayala Land, Filinvest Land and C&P Homes, which are all expected to benefit from the steady decline in domestic interest rates. Yield on the benchmark 91-day treasury bill, the primary basis of bank loans, is at 8.141 percent, its lowest since July 1987.

AP, AFP

Banks' NPLs slip to 18.76%

NON-PERFORMING loans (NPLs) of commercial banks slightly improved to 18.76 percent of all loans at the end of November 2001 and analysts said the level might have started to flatten out after a year-long deterioration.

"The November data is positive to the extent that it may indicate a stabilization in the trend for bad loans after a year of relatively steady deterioration," said Gene Frieda, economist of 4Cast Ltd in Singapore.

Although the November NPL figure was lower than October's 18.81 percent NPL ratio, it was higher than the level a year ago of 16.26 percent, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said in a statement yesterday.

While total NPLs increased by 0.9 percent month-on-month to P294 billion at the end of November, this was offset by a 1.1-percent increase in total loans to P1.57 trillion.

The central bank said only 45 percent of operating commercial banks reported higher NPL ratios in November compared with 61 percent the previous month. *Reuters*

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With

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Only From BPI FAMILY BANK

For The Benefit Of Your Employees

EXPRESS FIRST HOME is a new housing loan product designed by BPI Family Bank that offers the lowest interest rates and the longest repayment terms for first time home buyers or borrowers.

It's open to employees of your company with a monthly income of ₱30,000 to ₱50,000.

EXPRESS FIRST HOME provides loan amounts from ₱501,000 to ₱1,000,000 at 12%* interest fixed for 2 years. Or 15%* interest fixed for 5 years.

Your employees also get as much as 80% of the appraised property value, as well as a maximum 25 years to pay.

So they pay a much smaller downpayment and more affordable monthly amortizations. Payments will be made only through convenient automatic debit arrangement or salary deduction.

EXPRESS FIRST HOME entails no extra cost nor subsidy on your part as employers.

Be Part Of The Housing Program

By participating in the offering of EXPRESS FIRST HOME, your company helps in the government's program to provide housing for the majority of Filipinos.

See How Affordable It Is For Your Employee To Own His First Home.

Sample computation - At 12%* interest with 25 year term

Gross Monthly Income	Maximum Loanable Amount	Monthly Payment
₱30,000	₱850,000	₱8,952
₱35,000	₱950,000	₱10,005
₱40,000	₱1,000,000	₱10,532

Call BPI Family Bank At 845-6888 Now!

BPI FAMILY BANK

Initially available in Greater Metro Manila only.

*These rates are good until March 31,2002

Bye Pinoy Movement

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

YESTERDAY, Gloriaetta woke early, travelled all the way to Quezon province, and gave away P10 million. Of course it was not her own money. *Husay mo*!

If I give away money that's not mine, I don't know in what jail I will land. But as President of the Republic, which she still was, at least as of press time yesterday, Gloriaetta could get away with it. Giving away money that's not hers is part of the job.

I mean, the money did not come from her, personally. It was not even the money of the government. That P10 million came from the CIIF.

Now CIIF is the short name of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund, which is also nicknamed coconut levy fund. Today the fund should amount to more than P100 billion—easily.

Despite such a name, however, and despite its phenomenal growth over the years, not a single lousy billion of the fund went to the coconut industry.

Gloriaetta, in an exclusive interview yesterday with the three good-looking hosts of the new radio program "Barangay 1026" over dzAR Angel Radyo, 1026 khz on your dial, said it's the first time the fund will be used for coconut farmers in many decades.

By the way, I am one of the three hosts. The other two are Noli Eala and Ben Evardone. Believe me, girls, they are both gay. You can come to me with your problems.

* * *

ANYWAY, using the advance journalism technique of asking the source if she had any major announcement to make, please, we found out from Gloriaetta that she set aside P10 million for a micro lending program for coconut farmers in Quezon.

Under the program, government-designated NGOs will oversee the lending, including that curse of all lending programs—the collection itself.

The problem with government lending programs is, borrowers often mistake the loan for doleouts. You know—they never repay the loans. Hell, they don't even say thank you. To them, government doleout is some sort of a birth right or something.

That's why Gloriaetta, I presume, is tapping the NGOs. She said they have been doing micro lending, and quite successfully, for the past several years.

That means the NGOs get paid for the loans they give out, using a system borrowed from Bangladesh, the Grameen. Collection rate goes as high as 99 percent, if I'm not mistaken. See, farmers are a lot more honorable than most real estate companies.

Now, that P10 million is just a tiny molecule in a little drop in the bucket in the ocean that's the coconut levy fund. But at least it's a start. There's P700 million more.

And one thing I liked about Gloriaetta's move is, the money will go directly to real, honest-to-goodness coconut farmers. Not PCGG lawyers, este, not the lawyers who are paid, handsomely, by the government for the cases over the coconut levy fund.

* * *

TRADE and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas looked good in his Tommy Hilfiger khaki jacket. This was the guy who just launched the Buy Pinoy movement, wearing a Tommy!

He was talking to us, at the lobby of the Manila Peninsula Hotel, prior to his attending the Philippine Forum, in which some participants lambasted this cute administration for saying one thing and then doing another.

"But it's made in the Philippines," Mar told me, after I said the trademark on his jacket looked like it was imported. *Local din pala*.

Mar is lucky. He can buy foreign brands, even classy named brands, which are made in the Philippines. Most of the time, those are not available to mere mortals like us. They are exclusively for export.

Anyway, "Buy Pinoy," I hope, is not just a slogan. We had so many similar slogans before. Movements like this had gone faster than they had come.

* * *

PEOPLE who don't have much money like the rich Mar usually do not decide on what they buy based on nationality. The last time I bought something, I looked at the price. I'm not even sure now whether or not it was made in another planet.

But I understand why the Buy Pinoy movement came about. It's this globalization thing. Another way of putting globalization is, we're dead. It's the "goodbye Pinoy movement."

We are importing too many things. Every little item I checked last Christmas was made in other countries. Even the wrappers being sold on the sidewalks were made elsewhere. No wonder, businesses are closing down.

Anyway, so our business leaders and government leaders decided it was high time we fight back against imported goods. So what did they do? Well, they made a slogan.

In my time, even without slogans made by the elite of our society, we bought a lot of local goods. They used foreign brands, sure, but they were all made locally. They were all fake goods.

We were not really fooling anybody, least of all ourselves. We knew it was fake. Everybody knew it was fake.

But they were the only thing we could afford. In my time, locally made goods were much cheaper than the imported goods. Not anymore. Even the fake goods we buy here are imported from somewhere like China.

* * *

AND so we were even beaten in our game of copying. I thought the Filipino was the master aper. We could do an exact imitation of anything, from guns to brandy.

In Taiwan, the government used to close its eyes on piracy. If you were caught making fake goods, you were jailed, sure, but you could get out by paying the fine. It was something like T$2,000. This, at that time, was like P200!

So how do you think a lot of the small businesses in China, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia and even Singapore developed their craft if not by making fake goods. Now they have their own brands. We import them now.

And that's why we need more slogans. Nice!

(In reaction to Mr. Banal's column yesterday, Multitel issued the following official statement: Mr. Banal continues to assail Multitel in his piece titled "Win scam, lose scam." This is a very damaging and misleading title as it assumes that some people who have dealt with Multitel are losing or are bound to lose. Multitel is proud to inform everybody that it has not encountered a single complainant specially during the time it was actively operating and soliciting investments and even up to now Multitel's track record with its past and present clients and investors can speak for itself.

Multitel wish to emphasize that it has not authorized anybody to distribute marketing materials of any kind. The money it has generated before the SEC advised it to suspend its operations and convert its license to a financing corporation was never sent abroad. The money remains in the Philippines and most of it is now safely back in the hands of the people who invested in it.)

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, January 16, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.00	58	58	58	416,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24.00	24.75	24	24.75	169,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	196.0	199	195	199	45,000
Philippine National Bank	63.00	63	63	63	4,100
Philippine Savings Bank	27.00	28.5	27	28.5	6,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	6,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.00	17	17	17	5,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	23,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	120,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1325	1310	1320	2,200
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1035	1030	1035	11,860
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.00	24	24	24	1,900
Diversified Fin. Network	4.20	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	.3900	.39	.39	.39	3,210,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	680.0	680	675	675	64,730
Ipeople Inc.	.8500	.85	.85	.85	60,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	.0240	.028	.024	.028	8,600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	.2800	.28	.28	.28	50,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.20	3.2	3.2	3.2	14,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	412.5	412.5	407.5	412.5	242,630
Philweb.Com Inc.	.0180	.019	.017	.019	226,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.25	22.75	22.25	22.5	1,166,800
Manila Electric Co. B	30.00	31	30	30.5	1,056,000
Petron Corp.	1.54	1.58	1.54	1.58	5,043,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.8800	.88	.88	.88	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.70	2.7	2.7	2.7	1,718,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.80	5.8	5.8	5.8	1,011,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.50	12.75	12.50	12.75	118,000
RFM Corp.	2.34	2.36	2.3	2.3	403,000
San Miguel Corp. A	44.00	44	44	44	10,100
San Miguel Corp. B	54.00	54.5	53.5	53.5	94,500
Vitarich Corp.	.4500	.45	.45	.45	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.95	5.1	4.95	5	7,254,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	223,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	.8000	.82	.8	.82	330,000
A. Soriano Corp.	.5400	.55	.54	.55	230,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0065	.0065	.006	.006	7,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	.5100	.53	.5	.53	10,210,000
A. Brown Co. Inc.	.5000	.5	.5	.5	50,000
Crown Equities Inc.	.2200	.22	.22	.22	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.1600	.16	.16	.16	150,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	.8900	.93	.89	.92	1,270,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	26.00	26.5	26	26	308,500
Ionics Inc.	6.90	6.9	6.9	6.9	19,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	597,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	.0180	.021	.018	.021	22,800,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	.0150	.015	.015	.015	3,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	.7000	.72	.7	.72	420,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	.2600	.26	.26	.26	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.2800	.3	.28	.3	3,090,000
Music Corp.	.2200	.235	.215	.235	2,730,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	.1700	.175	.17	.175	1,100,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.90	3.9	3.9	3.9	215,000
Philtread Holdings Corp. B	3.90	3.9	3.9	3.9	338,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	.8100	.81	.81	.81	60,000
Solid Group Inc.	.3300	.33	.33	.33	300,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.20	4.2	4	4	8,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	.1500	.16	.15	.16	1,210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	.0750	.075	.075	.075	500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.00	14.25	14	14.25	31,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Acesite Phils. Hotel Corp.	7.00	7	7	7	5,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.4700	.47	.47	.47	340,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.75	25	24.75	25	76,100
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.74	50,000
Jollibee Warrants	12.00	12	12	12	5,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	.0012	.0012	.0012	.0012	90,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series Z	10.00	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series BB	10.00	10	10	10	2,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	.0048	.0055	.0048	.0055	128,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.60	5.8	5.6	5.8	9,196,000
C & P Homes Inc.	.2350	.24	.235	.24	1,830,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.3800	.41	.38	.41	9,410,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.2300	.24	.23	.24	3,570,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.94	2.1	1.94	2.08	11,902,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	.2300	.23	.22	.23	1,150,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	.0600	.0625	.05	.0625	400,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.50	6.6	6.5	6.6	8,553,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	.0034	.0034	.0034	.0034	3,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2.55	2.75	2.5	2.75	48,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	.0240	.028	.024	.027	134,200,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	.0250	.025	.025	.025	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	.0034	.0034	.0034	.0034	33,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	.0170	.018	.017	.017	17,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	.2500	.25	.25	.25	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	.0160	.018	.016	.018	61,300,000
Interport Res. B	.0036	.0036	.0036	.0036	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	60,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	42,000,000
Pacifica	.0150	.015	.015	.015	17,200,000
Sinophil Corp.	.0500	.05	.05	.05	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	.2200	.22	.22	.22	1,020,000

DISCLOSURES

GAMELIN Oczon was appointed director of **PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.** effective on Jan. 15. The board likewise approved March 1 as the record date for the determination of the stockholders entitled to notice and vote at its annual stockholders' meeting on April 17. It will be held at 9:30 a.m.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Equitable PCI Bank Inc.** approved March 1 as the record date for its stockholders' meeting on April 16. It will be held at 3 p.m.

* * *

THE **PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange Inc.** found that the requirements under its rule on additional listing of shares is not applicable to the intended subscription by **Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd.** to 442.56 million common class B shares of **San Miguel Corp.** *Compiled By Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

Jan. 16, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.132759	1.000000	51.3870
Japan	Yen	0.008640	0.007627	0.3919
United Kingdom	Pound	1.631513	1.440300	74.0127
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145412	0.128370	6.5965
Switzerland	Franc	0.677366	0.597979	30.7283
Canada	Dollar	0.712876	0.629327	32.3392
Singapore	Dollar	0.620282	0.547585	28.1388
Australia	Dollar	0.588141	0.519211	26.6807
Bahrain	Dinar	3.004827	2.652661	136.3123
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302070	0.266667	13.7032
Brunei	Dollar	0.615965	0.543774	27.9429
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000109	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025862	0.022831	1.1732
UAE	Dirham	0.308486	0.272331	13.9943
Korea	Won	0.000867	0.000765	0.0393
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.882800	45.3644
Brazil	Real	0.464455	0.425532	21.8668
Denmark	Kroner	0.134541	0.118759	6.1027
India	Rupee	0.023165	0.020747	1.0661
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.294235	0.263227	13.5264
Mexico	New Peso	0.121262	0.108976	5.5999
New Zealand	Dollar	0.473665	0.423729	21.7742
Norway	Kroner	0.125699	0.11162	5.7358
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018679	0.016694	0.8579
South Africa	Rand	0.097808	0.085699	4.4038
Sweden	Kroner	0.108132	0.095904	4.9282
Syria	Pound	0.021877	0.022883	1.1759
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032006	0.028653	1.4724
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001466	0.001313	0.0675

$130-M BOND REDEMPTION

ICTSI taps cash-rich subsidiary

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. is set to borrow P5 billion from a cash-rich foreign subsidiary in order to redeem $130 million worth of convertible notes this year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ICTSI executive vice president Edgardo Abesamis said the company's board had authorized the issuance of 5 billion preferred, non-voting shares at a premium to Cayman Islands-registered subsidiary International Container Terminal Holdings Inc. (ICTHI).

Abesamis said the transaction would allow ICTSI to use part of the proceeds received by ICTHI from the $400-million deal it signed with the Hutchison Whampoa group of Hong Kong last year on the sale of ICTSI's international arm, International Holdings Corp. (IIHC).

"The preferred shares are non-voting and are unlisted shares. They are designed not to dilute the shareholdings of the existing shareholders of ICTSI," Abesamis said.

ICTSI's $130-million convertible notes, issued in 1997, are due in 2004 but with a redemption option this March with a premium of about $36.9 million based on analysts' estimates.

"The total amount to be reinvested by ICTHI back to its parent company ICTSI through this preferred share issue is P5 billion payable in several tranches, the last of which will be in June 2002," Abesamis said.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said ICTSI simply tapped the cash hoard of its Cayman Island unit, which was among the subsidiaries which had benefited from the sale of IIHC, to retire the convertible notes.

The sale to Hutchison International Holdings Ltd. of ICTSI's stake in IIHC as well as those held by other minority shareholders was completed in June last year. The deal also included ICTSI's Mexican cruise port Ensenada Cruiseport Village S.A. but not the newly awarded port in Suape, Brazil.

Hutchison International Port is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Hutchison conglomerate. It holds and manages port and related services worldwide, operating a total of 136 berths in 19 ports together with a number of transportation-related service companies.

For its part, IIHC operates eight container terminals in six countries—Argentina, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Tanzania and Thailand.

The other minority shareholders in IIHC included Capital International Global Emerging Markets Private Equity Fund LP, JP Morgan Capital LP and Sixty Wall Street Fund LP.

ICTSI has sold its stake in IIHC precisely to retire its dollar convertible notes and to pursue port projects in the Philippines and abroad.

Of the total $400-million equity value agreed upon for IIHC, the ICTSI group got $240 million for its 60-percent stake. With the sale, ICTSI's cash level increased to around P14.9 billion.

San Miguel thirsts for regional reach

LOCAL television advertisements for food and beverage firm San Miguel Corp. boast of beer sales from Barcelona to Bombay, and pitch the brand as one of Asia's most popular.

The company, among the five largest in this country of 77 million people, has said it wants to become a more significant regional player after sealing its local dominance last year with a string of acquisitions.

As 2001 came to a close, the maker of SM Pale Pilsen beer also made a strike past its borders, proposing to sell a 15-percent stake to No. 2 Japanese beer maker Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. for P27.9 billion.

The move broadens market exposure for both firms and brings Kirin's international marketing heft to San Miguel. In the Dec. 14 statement announcing the deal, the companies said that their combined brewing capacity placed the partnership "among the top five brewers worldwide".

But political snags, and San Miguel's patchy regional record to date have made some analysts skeptical of its ability to become a regional heavyweight.

The Kirin sale is subject to shareholder approval at a special meeting on Feb. 27. The government has sequestered a 47-percent stake in San Miguel on suspicion the shares were illegally amassed using funds taken from coconut farmers during the rule of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The government has said it won't stand in the way of the deal. In return company chair Eduardo Cojuangco will allow the government to name its representatives to the company board and to key committees.

Kirin's networks

"You have to respect the networks Kirin has not only in the region but even in markets in Europe and United States and that would certainly help San Miguel's plans to expand not only regionally but even globally," Asiasec Equities consumer analyst Oliver Plana said.

Kirin has one of the best known international beer brands, and for 48 years was the king of Japan's beermakers until arch-rival Asahi Breweries Ltd.

SAN Miguel production line

outsold it in 2001.

San Miguel, on the other hand, has few peers at home.

The company contributes around 2.5 percent to the Philippines' gross domestic product annually and has a majority local market share in beer, hard liquor, soft drinks, juice, bottled water and processed meats.

Besides Pale Pilsen—which it says is the most popular foreign beer in China's Guangzhou—it also makes the trendy San Miguel Light and San Miguel Dry as well as a stout-type Cerveza Negra.

It's already been making forays abroad, with interests in a brewery in Hong Kong, three in mainland China and one each in Vietnam and Indonesia. It acquired Australian beer maker J. Boag & Son last year.

"They have had a lot of international ventures, Hong Kong, China, plus a few other small attempts . . . but I don't think they have really made much headway in other (regional) markets . . . I think they are still trying to figure out just how to do it," Philippine Equity Partners research head Jojo Gonzales said.

Plana said San Miguel had struggled with its international operations during much of the 1990s and through the Asian crisis, but that it may be turning the corner. "In the last few years they have been able to turn things around and that has been evident in their operating results," he said.

In the nine months to September 2001, operating income from San Miguel's international beer business rose 17.5 percent to $4.7 million, while revenues rose 7.4 percent.

Local focus

Some observers say that instead of looking abroad, the firm should be concentrating on strengthening its local operations, beefed up last year by the acquisition of Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines, Pure Foods Corp. and the country's second largest soft drinks maker Cosmos Bottling Corp.

A stumbling block to the firm's future expansion plans remains the disputed ownership of the sequestered shares, now amounting to over 52 percent of the company following a recent stock buy-back program.

Analysts point out that the more than decade old legal battle over ownership has hamstrung the company's ability to raise fresh capital.

It has also put a drag on the company's stock prices.

The B-shares, open to both local and foreign investors, have regularly underperformed the Philippine Stock Exchange's main index in the past several years.

However, from July last year they began outperforming the market and from Oct. 19 to the close of trade on Wednesday the B-shares had risen 24.4 percent, finishing at P53.50.

The A-shares, open only to Filipino investors, finished Wednesday's trading session at P44. *Reuters*

JG Summit eyes expansion in food, telecom sectors

JG SUMMIT Holdings Corp. said yesterday that it planned to spend P15 billion ($300 million) in 2002 to expand its food, property and telecommunications businesses, about half the estimated amount last year.

Lance Gokongwei, executive vice president of one of the country's largest conglomerate, told Reuters he expected this year's capital expenditure to be partially funded by a bond issue, to be used mainly for the rollout of a mobile phone service and for enhancing its property and food businesses.

"It will be used to expand food business in the region, to launch our GSM project and to continue mall expansion," he said.

The company said it expected the capex to have reached $500-$600 million in 2001.

"The test for JG Summit this year is their mobile phone project. If they will be able to differentiate their new service, then they will get a share of the telecom pie," said BPI investment analyst Spencer Yap.

Digital Telecommunications Inc. (Digitel), JG Summit's telecom unit, is finalizing arrangements to launch its digital mobile phone service in mid-2002.

Analysts were waiting to see how Digitel, with a fixed-line subscriber base of about 400,000 concentrated on the main island of Luzon, would squeeze itself in a crowding cellular phone market.

PLDT corners a big chunk of almost 10 million wireless subscriber market, with its wholly owned Smart Communications cornering 44 percent and debt-saddled unit Pilipino Telephone Corp. enjoying 13 percent.

Globe, owned by Ayala Corp., Singapore Telecommunications and Deutsche Telekom, has 41 percent. The rest are with other smaller players.

In September last year, Digitel signed a $200-million deal with French telecom equipment provider Alcatel for its GSM 1800 network project to set up 700 cell sites in the country to serve about a million subscribers.

JG Summit, through property unit Robinsons Land Corp., is also eyeing to build four new malls this year to bring the total number of malls in the country to 10.

ADB asked to back $1B in Napocor loans

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday that the National Power Corp. was trying to secure a guarantee from the Asian Development Bank to make its foreign borrowings, which could amount to $1 billion this year, more attractive.

He said Napocor would like to tap the multilateral agency to guarantee future loans. Of the $1 billion that the state-run power firm needed, about $800 million would be used to pay maturing obligations this year.

Napocor would get a third of the proceeds of the $750 million in global bonds that the national government issued last week.

Camacho said this would leave Napocor with only about $800 million to raise within the year.

A person familiar with the matter said the power firm was already working out a guarantee facility with the ADB to support its planned $400-million to $500-million long-term bond issue to be handled by US investment banks Bear Stearns and Co. and JP Morgan Chase & Co.

"We are exploring how we could get a guarantee from the ADB similar to what we are trying to get from the World Bank," Camacho, who also chairs Napocor, said.

A source said Napocor would try to use a pending $200-million power sector reform loan from the ADB and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation as a guarantee facility.

An ADB guarantee will bring down the cost of the borrowing for the government because the credit rating of the issue will improve. It will also assure investors that the borrowing has been backed by a program loan from where the Philippine government can draw from to pay its obligations.

Napocor was said to be looking to issue bonds maturing in five, seven or 10 years. While the final maturity would depend on how credit rating agencies like Moody's Investors Service and Fitch IBCA would rate the borrowing, the government was keen on a seven-year issue.

The rating is expected to be handed down this week before a Philippine team leaves for New York and major European cities next week to start selling Napocor bonds.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is also set to approve the power firm's foreign borrowing in a Monetary Board meeting today. "Now is the best time to borrow from the market," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The central bank chief said the BSP had received several offers for new loans. It had just raised $250 million from a four-year Eurobond facility similar to its $550-million borrowings last year.

"We will stop for now because we don't like the maturities to bunch up at 2005. Our preference would be for loans maturing in 2006 and 2007 but only if spreads would go down further," said Buenaventura.

The $250 million in fresh funds would help beef up the country's dollar reserves that stood at $15.7 billion as of end-December. This year, the BSP would like to keep the dollar reserves between $14 billion and $15 billion.

PNOC to pour $100M into naphtha project

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. will shell out over $100 million mostly from its internal funds to secure a 34-percent equity in a $600-million naphtha cracker project.

In an interview yesterday, PNOC president Thelmo Cunanan said the amount would more or less correspond to a 34-percent equity share that the PNOC would hold through PNOC Petrochemical Development.

"That is assuming that the project has a 50-50 debt-equity ratio," Cunanan said.

He said the PNOC was already identifying possible sources for the rest of the $100 million that it could not raise from their internal funds.

"We will tap these only when it becomes necessary," Cunanan said.

He added that the PNOC was confident of achieving its target of having the naptha cracker on stream in late 2005 or early 2006.

"(We expect to sign a) joint-venture agreement by the third quarter if not in the middle of this year," the PNOC chief said.

The former ambassador pointed out that there were lots of serious petrochemical industry players interested to take part in the project.

STABLE OUTLOOK

Inflation to fall below 3.9%, BSP predicts

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas expects inflation to fall further this month from 3.9 percent in December to a level sufficient to support its plan to cut its overnight rates and reserve requirement this week.

A newly formed advisory committee is expected to recommend to the Monetary Board today a cut in the BSP's overnight rates by a quarter-of-a-percentage point and the reserve requirement that banks are expected to comply with by one to two percentage points.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, chair of the advisory committee, refused to comment on the planned easing of the central bank's monetary policies but assured that the committee's inflation outlook remained favorable.

"The January inflation is looking good. It could even be better than the December inflation of 3.9 percent," he said.

In January 2001, inflation stood at 6.9 percent, last year's peak level.

Financial markets are already anticipating a cut in the central bank's rates and reserve requirement as reflected in the decline in treasury bill rates during last Monday's auction.

Buenaventura said in earlier interviews that the central bank was looking to trim its policy rates by half-a-percentage point this year, and half of the projected level could even be implemented ahead of an expected 25-basis-point cut in US interest rates late this month.

He also noted that the central bank could bring back the banks' reserve requirement to 16 percent this year. Both policies should spur growth.

The central bank's overnight rates are at 7.75 percent for borrowing and 10 percent for lending, while the reserve requirement is at 18 percent.

Buenaventura explained that before the Monetary Board could ease monetary policies anew this year, it had to be assured that inflation would remain low, the peso would be stable and business activity would improve.

As of November last year, growth in domestic liquidity, which measures the amount of funds in the system, has slowed down to only 6.2 percent from a high of 14.7 percent in May.

The drop in domestic liquidity growth suggests that there may be a need to pump back money into the system to help support growth.

A two-percentage-point reduction in the reserve requirement will plow about P26 billion back into the economy.

Flight cut plan alarms PAL

THE CEBU-SEOUL service of Philippine Airlines Inc. is in danger of being stalled unless its twice-weekly extra flights on the route become permanent.

In a statement, PAL raised its concern over reports that the Civil Aeronautics Board would reduce to one the extra flights by March 1 to allow another local carrier to mount three frequencies between Manila and Seoul.

PAL uses two of the four additional frequencies granted under the new bilateral air agreement with Korea on the Cebu-Seoul route, on top of the original two scheduled flights it has long operated between the two points.

PAL pioneered the Cebu-Seoul route and invested heavily in developing it into a major tourism-generating service for the country and Cebu, in particular.

As pioneer operator on the route, PAL said the well-established "grandfather's right" principle accorded it priority in recognition of the substantial investment the airline had sunk into developing the service.

PAL pointed out that in this particular case, simple fairness and equity called for at least equal sharing of the new air entitlements.

Aviation authorities have said PAL's tow extra Cebu-Seoul flights will be discontinued on March 2 and the new entitlements covering these flights will be used instead by another operator on the Manila-Seoul route, which is already served 21 times weekly by Philippine and Korean carriers.

PAL said this plan would restrict the flow of Korean tourists to Cebu and jeopardize the future of Cebu's tourism industry.

Koreans comprise the fastest growing source of tourists for the Philippines and is one of Cebu's largest visitor-markets.

PAL carries 80 to 90 percent of all Korean traffic to the Philippines through its 13 weekly flights on three sectors: Manila-Seoul, Manila-Pusan and Cebu-Seoul.

The flag carrier's general sales agent in Korea was recently awarded the prestigious "Kalakbay" award by the tourism department for its efforts, proof of PAL's continuing drive to boost Korean tourism in the country.

GMA inaugurates Filoil housing project

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday led the inauguration of state-run Filoil Development and Management Corp.'s P90-million socialized housing project in Cavite.

Filoil president Cirilo Martinez said in an interview the project covered 5 hectares of its 118-ha. property in Rosario town and would benefit 500 families.

"These families had been informal dwellers (squatters) in our lands for as long as two decades," Martinez said. "But we made sure that only such residents as verified would qualify as beneficiaries."

He explained that each 40-square-meter unit of the apartment-type housing project would cost a total of P180,000 that the families would have to pay for 25 years.

"This means that they would be paying less than P1,000 a month for an entire house," Martinez noted. "Before, these residents paid more just to rent a room."

He said they were confident that the project, funded by the LandBank of the Philippines, would succeed since the beneficiaries had a secure livelihood.

"Most of them have jobs in the (nearby) Cavite Export Processing Zone," Martinez said.

Late last year, Malacañang issued Executive Order 59 that ordered the subsidiary of the Philippine National Oil Co. to dedicate 25 hectares of its Cavite property for socialized housing.

Filoil data showed that there were about 3,500 families who occupied the firm's idle lands.

Martinez said the other 3,000 families already had their own houses, but that they only had to pay for the lots they were occupying.

"At a minimum area of 40-sq.m. per lot and a rate of P700 per square meter, each family would be paying a very minimal amount since they are given up to 25 years," the Filoil chief said.

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$350M in loans for Maynilad tied to MWSS seal of approval

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. has been unable to secure approval for $350 million worth of loans because it has yet to get an endorsement for a sovereign guarantee from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, a person familiar with the matter said yesterday.

A ranking MWSS official said the MWSS' finance and administration group had yet to forward to Maynilad's creditors its seal of approval, which would bind the government into a commitment to pay Maynilad's debts should Maynilad fail to pay them.

The source said the new MWSS administrator, Orlando Hondrade, was still evaluating the terms that would add to the government's already heavy debt burden.

The MWSS is already subsidizing concession payments now worth P2.78 billion that Maynilad has refused to pay since March last year.

Citing "forces beyond its control," Maynilad refused to pay these fees, as it enumerated debt-related losses that arose from the peso's steep depreciation against the dollar.

The company had been servicing some $800 million worth of debts it absorbed when it won a $7.5-billion concession with Manila Water Co. Inc. to provide water services in Metro Manila. These were debts incurred by the MWSS.

Maynilad's liabilities have ballooned in recent years because of the peso's steep depreciation against the US dollar because of the 1997-98 Asian currency crisis.

When Maynilad took responsibility for the MWSS' debts in 1997, the peso was trading at 26 to a dollar. It had since dropped to as low as 55, jacking up Maynilad's dollar-denominated debts.

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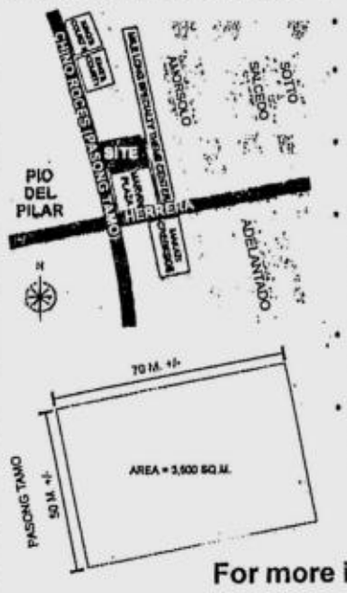

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For more information, please contact

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GLOBE TELECOM

NOTICE TO ALL WARRANT HOLDERS

28 November 2001

Dear Stockholder:

We write you in relation to the P6.058 Billion rights offering (Record Date: December 17, 1997) of Common shares and Warrants in the proportion of one (1) Warrant attached to and detachable from every one and a half (1.5) rights shares subscribed in the capital stock of the Company.

We would like to remind you, as a Warrant Holder, that the deadline for you to exercise your right to subscribe to Common Shares is January 28, 2002.

As stated in the Notice to Shareholders on the Declassification and Reverse Stock Split (distributed August 2000), the exercise price for the warrants is P164.50 (post reverse stock-split).

Should you fail to submit the required documents (and payment) on or before the due date (in accordance with the Exercise Procedures (please see attached Relevant Sections in the Information Memorandum Relating to the P6.058 Billion Rights Offer) the Warrant Instrument shall lapse and have no legal and binding effect.

Please feel free to contact the following should you have any questions:

Malou Rustia-Santos Tel. No. + 632 730 2820
James Pabustan Tel. No. + 632 730 3494

However, if you have exercised your Warrants before receipt of this notice, please disregard this notice.

Very truly yours,

DELFIN C. GONZALEZ, JR.
Senior Vice President - Chief Financial Officer

Relevant Sections in the Information Memorandum Relating to the P6.058 Billion Rights Offer

Exercise Period
The Warrant Holder may exercise his right to subscribe up to the number of Exercise Shares as are equivalent to the number of Warrants held, at any time during the Exercise Period which commenced on any Trading Day six (6) months after full payment of the Rights Shares (or from January 26, 1999) up to the close of business for the Trading Day four (4) years from date of start of the Offer (or January 26, 2002). If for any reason, January 26,2002 is not a Trading Day in Metro Manila, the set date shall be the succeeding Trading Day after the above-mentioned date. As at January 26, 2002, (or if January 26, 2002 is not a Trading Day in Metro Manila, the next Trading Day after such date) the Warrants and the Warrant Instrument shall lapse and shall have no legal and binding effect.

Exercise Procedures
To exercise the right to subscribe under the Warrants, a Warrant Holder must complete, execute and deliver, at the Warrant Holder's expense during the regular business hours on any Banking Day during the Exercise Period at the specified offices (4/F BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City) of the Bank of the Philippine Islands - Stock Transfer Office (the "Warrant Registrar"), a duly accomplished Subscription Form appearing at the back of the Warrant Certificate together with the following documents:

(i) the fully-endorsed Warrant Certificate with the subscription form section properly filled out;
(ii) the payment for the full Exercise Price;
(iii) corporate authorizations allowing the exercise of the right to purchase the Exercise Shares if the Warrant Holder is a corporation;
(iv) signature card with the specimen signature(s) of the beneficial owner(s) of the Exercise Shares, or if the beneficial owner is a corporation, the specimen signatures of the authorized signatories;
(v) the payment of any amount that may be required by the Warrant Registrar in the exercise of the rights under the Warrants,

The Warrant Certificate and accompanying Subscription Form and the other documentary requirements for the exercise of the rights under the Warrants once delivered and received to the Warrant Registrar shall not be withdrawn without the consent of the Company. The exercise of the Warrants shall be deemed completed upon the surrender and endorsement of the Warrant Certificate as provided above and the payment of the full Exercise Price. If payment is effected by check, then the payment shall be deemed complete upon the actual receipt of the funds by the Company.

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BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
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1002 Manila

NOTICE

TO ALL ALIENS

All ALIENS, immigrant or non-immigrant, living or sojourning in the Philippines, are hereby reminded, pursuant to Section 3 of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, as amended, in relation to Section 10 of the Alien Registration Act, to report in person to the Bureau of Immigration within the first sixty (60) days of every year to update their file with the Bureau. For those who are in Metro Manila, the annual report shall be at the Alien Registration Division, BI-Intramuros, while for those in the provinces, they can go to the nearest BI subport office.

The official in charge shall accept such annual report in the manner to be prescribed by the rules and regulations. An annual report fee of Three Hundred and Ten Pesos (P310.00) shall be paid by the alien. The parent or legal guardian of an alien who is less than fourteen years of age, shall have the duty of reporting for such alien: Provided, that whenever any such alien attains his fourteenth birthday in the Philippines, he shall thereafter report in person and pay the required annual report fee of P310.00 once a year within the period and at the place above designated.

For compliance.

(Sgd.) ANDREA DOMINGO
Commissioner

(PDI – Jan. 16 & 17, 2002)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of late MODESTO S. ANOR was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc. No. 83 Page No. 17 Book No. III Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Ronaldo P. Salvado of Marikina City.
(PDI-Jan 10, 17 & 24,2002)

NOTICE

SUPERB LATE MODEL EXECUTIVE VEHICLES incl.
*MERCEDES BENZ E240 Elegance, Champs Elysees edition A/T, Midnight Blue, Reg: XTL-979 (1998);
*NISSAN CEFIRO Elite V6, A/T, Blue, Reg: WRV-802 (2001);
*NISSAN CEFIRO Elite V6, A/T, Black, Reg: WNA-614 (2000);
*FORD EXPEDITION, A/T, Burgundy, Reg: WBC-716 (1998);
*TOYOTA CORONA, A/T, White, Reg: WEP-533 (1999);
*SUZUKI VITARA JLX Auto4 16 Valve, A/T, Blue, Reg: WNL-297 (2000);
*SUZUKI VITARA JLX Auto4 16 Valve, A/T, White, Reg: WSR-156 (2001);
*MERCEDES BENZ MB100, White, Diesel, Reg: UKB-819 (1998);
*HONDA CIVIC RS VTI VTEC, A/T, Reg: WRE-996 (2000);
*HONDA CIVIC LXI, Blue, Reg: WFP-412 (1999);
*MITSUBISHI GSR Sport, Blue, Reg: WEE-952 (1999)
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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Supreme Court invites prospective bidders to pre-qualify and participate in the public bidding to be conducted for the:

1. Provision of Janitorial Services for the Supreme Court for the year 2002; and
2. Delivery of various Office Supplies to:
   a. Branches and Offices of the Clerks of Court of the Regional Trial Courts and Metropolitan Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region;
   b. Branches and Offices of the Clerks of Court of the Regional Trial Court, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, Municipal Circuit Trial Courts, Shari'a District Courts and Shari'a Circuit Courts in the different provinces and cities in the country.

Prospective bidders for Janitorial Services and Office Supplies may secure pre-qualification requirements from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Office of Administrative Services.

Pre-qualification requirements for both the provision of Janitorial Services and delivery of various Office Supplies, proposal forms, Terms and Conditions and list of Office Supplies subject of this particular bidding will be furnished prospective bidders, after payment of non-refundable of P200.00.

I. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All pre-qualification requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the authorized representatives as follows:

a for JANITORIAL SERVICES - on February 6, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Hall, 4th Floor, Multi-Purpose Building, Supreme Court; and
b for delivery of various OFFICE SUPPLIES - on February 8, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Hall, 4th Floor, Multi-Purpose Building, Supreme Court;

The Committee on Bids shall evaluate the pre-qualification requirements on the respective scheduled dates of submission.

II. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference for:
1. JANITORIAL SERVICES shall be held on February 13, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at 4th Floor Multi-Purpose Bldg. Supreme Court; and
2. Delivery of various OFFICE SUPPLIES shall be held on February 13, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. at 4th Floor Multi-Purpose Building Supreme Court.

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Only bids of pre-qualified bidders for janitorial services and delivery of office supplies, who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.

a. for JANITORIAL SERVICES - on February 20, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the same venue; and
b. for delivery of various OFFICE SUPPLIES - on February 27, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the same venue.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive defect or informality therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

January 11, 2002

(Sgd.) JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI - Jan. 17, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA PILIPINAS

DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will sell various DEMONETIZED COINS AND SCRAP MATERIALS located at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila and at the BSP Motorpool and Sports Complex, P. Casal Street, Quiapo, Manila thru sealed bids to be received by the Committee not later than 10:00 AM on January 30, 2002 at Room MR-2C, Second Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila.

Interested parties may inspect the aforesaid items at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila before the bidding date.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's Executive Officer, Ms. Aurora S. Pascual, Administrative Services Department, Room 111, Ground Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila. Telephone No. 524-98-98.

(Sgd.) MELPIN A. GONZAGA
Chairman

(PDI – Jan. 17, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the Loss of Stock Cert of Solid bank Corp. under name of Carolyn Siy w/ the ff Cert# 300007145; 300008165; 30010289; 300011928; 300013857; 30015093; 300017575; 300019832; 300024434; 300026274. If no contest presented w/in 1yr of last publication new cert. will be issued.
(PDI-Jan.17,24&31, 2002)

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"There is no such thing as death. There are only the living, on earth and beyond. Death is nothing but a moment, a second, a step; the step from temporary to permanent, from temporal to eternal."

Our Beloved Daddy

Engr. Jose "Pepe" F. del Rosario

of Cabanatuan, Pulilan, Baguio and Iligan

Peacefully joined his Creator on the 14th day of January 2002 at the age of 83.

We, his family,
his loving wife, **Aida**
his children and in-laws,
Butch & Mimi, Cynthia & Willy, Tess, Boyet & Donna, Joyce, Benggoy and Cecile
his grandchildren,
Richard & Julian, Carla, Niko & Krissa, Ria & Paolo, Jake & Luigi,
his brothers and sisters, relatives and friends,

request all those whose lives he may have touched, to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Daily Mass will be offered at 8:00 p.m. until Friday, January 18, 2002.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 19, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. Cremation will follow.

(In lieu of flowers, the family will appreciate donations to the missionary work of Bishop Mar Levi Bar Toma).

The Board of Directors, Management, and Staff of

Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc.

condole with the family of

ERNESTO "BONG" A. GUARIN JR.

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 13, 2002 at the age of 31.

His remains lie in state at the St. Andrew Chapel
of the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels in Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 19, 2002, 2:30 p.m.
at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City.

His wife, **Ma. Jeanalin**, and his only son, **Eidrian Pohl**
request relatives, friends, and the pious reader to pray for his eternal rest.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Corinthians 5:4-5

In Loving Memory

On the First Death Anniversary of Our Beloved

ELIZABETH TOLENTINO FONTANILLA

January 17, 2002

From all those who love you

Your husband **Tony**; sons **John** and **Francis**; daughters **Melissa** and **Kathleen**; and all relatives, friends and colleagues, we request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Masses will be offered today at selected churches in Metro Manila.

In Loving Memory
on the Twenty Third (23rd) Death Anniversary of
EUFRASIA COSTA DE VITUG
who died January 17, 1979
and on the Forty Third (43rd) Death Anniversary of
VICTOR BELTRAN VITUG
who died February 1, 1958

Their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

---

†

COL. FERNANDO A. ABENDAÑO, SR.
PMA Class 1944
October 17, 1919 - January 14, 2002

We, his family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his eternal rest and peace.

His body lies in state at Chapel Q, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

The Funeral Mass at Loyola shall be at 9:00 AM on Saturday, January 19, 2002.

Interment follows at 10:30 AM at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

In Memory of the
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of the late

JUAN J. TUERES, JR.

27 April 1935 - 18 January 2001

Holy Masses will be offered on Friday, 18th of January 2002 in the following churches:

Christ the King, *E. Rodriguez, Quezon City*	**5:30 PM**
Christ the King, *Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City*	**6:00 PM**
Mt. Carmel Shrine, *New Manila, Quezon City*	**6:00 PM**
Sacred Heart Parish Church, *Kamuning, Quezon City*	**6:00 AM**
St. Paul the Apostle Parish Church, *Mother Ignacia corner Timog Avenue, Quezon City*	**7:00 AM**
St. John Bosco Parish, *Makati City*	**6:00 PM**
Santuario de San Antonio, *McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	**6:00 PM**
Santuario de San Jose, *Greenhills, Mandaluyong*	**7:00 AM**
Mary the Queen Parish, *Madison, Greenhills*	**7:00 AM**

Please join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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John 5:24-25

Julita Umali Morillo

"Mommy Lita"

Joyfully joined our Savior on January 15, 2002 at the age of 76.

She is survived by her loving children and in-laws **RUBY** & *JOHN*, **CYNTHIA** & *MELVIN*, **MARLONE** & *MERLENE*, **RAINIER** & *GIRLIE*, **EPHRAIM** & *MALOU*, **SANDRAH, BELLE** & *AL*, **BORIE** and **MURPHY**; grandchildren, great granchildren, relatives and friends.

Her remains lie in state at her residence Camilmil, Calapan City.

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Editor SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager

MESSAGES

MY WARMEST congratulations and best wishes to the officers, employees and staff of Professional Life as you embark on a noble undertaking in the life insurance industry.

In the midst of fresh challenges brought by the New Year to our country and our people, it is encouraging to know that investments and new opportunities still abound. As we begin the year 2002 with renewed hope and optimism, I salute your company's promise to help alleviate the plight of our countrymen. Your efforts will definitely add to the attainment of an improved quality of life for all Filipinos as envisioned by my administration.

I look forward to Professional Life's contribution to fostering social responsibility, uplifting moral standards and economic progress in the years to come. Through your commitment of securing the insurance needs of Filipinos, especially the ordinary working class, you aid in maintaining socio-economic stability in the country.

It is my sincere wish that Professinal Life would persevere to be active partners with the government in nation building. Together, let us work towards the realization of every Filipino's dream of greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Once again, congratulations and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

THERE is nothing quite like a new beginning—for with it comes anticipation, enthusiasm and great expectations. But above all these, there is the sense of accomplishment of successfully starting something, more so if it's for the good of society.

Today marks the launch of our country's newest life insurance company—Professional Life—and I am happy to be part of the celebration. I am delighted that Kim Eng Holdings Limited, one of the largest listed Singaporean stock brokers, has teamed-up with our own TPG Corporation to create Professional Life—thus strengthening the ties between the Philippines and Singapore. I salute Professional Life's pledge to be of service to our countrymen and our nation. By helping families prepare for their future, Professional Life is expected to play a significant role as we all embark on the road to national growth and development.

I extend my warm congratulations to Professional Life and to its partners, officers, employees and clients, and wish them continued success.

TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA JR.
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

ALLOW me to express my great enthusiasm with the emergence of a new life insurance company—Professional Life.

The life insurance industry is one of our nation's fastest growing industires, and is significantly contributing to government's efforts to raise capital for its development program. Through taxes paid by companies such as Professional Life, the life insurance industry sector has been consistent in sourcing funds to help our nation cope with the challenges of the times, ultimately contributing to the expansions of the country's economy as a whole.

The industry's growth also suggests that the Filipinos are now realizing the value of financial security. With proper education and constant encouragement, Filipinos are beginning to realize that idle savings can be invested in something worthwhile. I am glad that we have a new addition to the industry.

I commend and congratulate Professional Life for the opportunities and progress that you bring. Let us henceforth work hand in hand in helping better the lives of Filipinos.

JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary
Department of Finance

IT IS with great pleasure that I welcome the newest player in the life sector of our country's insurance industry.

Professional Life could not have chosen a more perfect time to come in—what with our nation fervent working hard to revive our economy's splendor due to the crisis that has befallen countries the world over. With its entry, Professional Life manifests the resiliency of the insurance industry—growing despite today's difficult economic environment.

Because of this, I have great confidence that with Professional Life's prudent investment approach—coupled with the backing of the ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. and the Professional Group, experts in the capital market— the interest of over 200,000 policyholders will always be safeguarded.

To the officers, employees and staff of Professional Life, my warmest greetings and my deepest desire for success. May all your undertakings be fruitful and meaningful.

EDUARDO MALINIS
Insurance Commissioner

An invigorated life company that will 'rock' the industry

Acquisitions and partnerships, strengthening of network and enhancement of existing products—ATR Professional Life Assurance Corporation, formerly GE Life Insurance Co., Inc., takes bold steps to gain industry leadership

ARNAIZ

TORDESILLAS

MENDOZA

BY RAQUEL P. GOMEZ

"WE will, we will rock you! Professional Life!" cheered the employees of ATR Professional Life Assurance Corporation, during the blessing of their new office at TPG Tower in Edsa, Mandaluyong in December.

The office scenario is euphoric as hopes run high for ATR Professional's serious bid to become a key player in the country's life insurance industry ever since ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners, a leading investment house, acquired the company late last year.

Professional Life, formerly GE Life Insurance Co. Inc., now holds office in the fourth and fifth floors of the building owned by The Professional Group Corporation (TPG), the first private pension plan company in the country.

ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc., made up of investors from the Philippines and Singapore, also has a major interest in TPG. The resulting alliance between Professional Life and TPG will bring about extensive financial services to clients of the two companies. The fruits of this alliance are already being enjoyed by the 300,000 plus planholders of TPG that are automatically insured with Professional Life.

Professional Life is currently one of today's major players in the Philippine employee market with over 300 group accounts and insuring 300.000 Filipinos.

It has a wide and complete range of insurance products, and the type of service it provides is distinctively customer-centric. Professional Life is a pioneer in electronically enabling insurance brokers to communicate their clients' requirements and getting immediate response from the company.

"The success of this alliance's entry into the highly competitive life insurance industry will be bolstered by all the synergies in distribution and product development made possible by our partnership with TPG Corporation, whose shareholders include the LBC Group of Companies, the country's leading courier and money remittance company," says chairman Ramon Arnaiz.

"As the new owners of the former GE Life, we have inherited a team of hardworking individuals who continue to espouse GE's legendary commitment to customer service and satisfaction, and its reputation for integrity and high standards of business conduct. We view these as important assets of the company which will allow us to compete effectively in any environment." says Manuel Tordesillas, vice chairman.

Professional Life is currently strengthening its network and focusing on product enhancement and development to become more competitive. Professional Life executives have also revealed plans to acquire or have partnership with another life company.

"The big part of our business right now is being brought in by the insurance brokers and we would like them to be more productive. At the same time we would like to increase the number of active insurance brokers. We would also like to come up with products that are more responsive to the demands of the corporate market," says Eulogio Mendoza, president and CEO.

Professional Life has entered into an alliance with Europ-Assist, a hospital accreditation company, for insurance products that allow employees of companies insured with Professional Life to enjoy medical benefits in any of its over 140 accredited hospitals nationwide.

Professional Life has an outstanding list of corporate clients, many of them key players in the country's economy. Even as GE Life, the company was already known for reliable and dependable service and that will always mean good business.

Professional Life embarks on the big journey to the top. The company's new owners are confident that they already posses the right roadmap. The vision of the new owners of Professional Life is very clear: "We see a world where, if you ask any Filipino employee to tell you who insures his life, or who pays his hospital bills, or who provided his wife with the startup capital for a small business, or who will pay his children's college tuition, the answer will invariably be 'Professional Life.'"

And that rocks.

Key to keeping clients: 'Just deliver service'

BY JOEL V. NIGOS

WHEN asked how his company keeps its clients, Eulogio Mendoza, president and chief executive officer of Professional Life, immediately says "We just deliver service."

Mendoza explains: "Three years ago when we launched GE Life, we wanted to project ourselves as an insurance company that paid completely documented claims within 24 hours. GE Life is now known as Professional Life, and, modesty aside, we are still projecting ourselves that way, and we have never failed." Mendoza enthuses.

Mendoza cites another example.

"We were the first to offer the group insurance market payment within seven days in case of death to an insured company's employees, provided complete documents were submitted. Our company will pay interest if the claims gets delayed for any reason," he says.

Simple? Maybe, but Mendoza unabashedly attributes Professional Life's big success in the market to an unflinching commitment to deliver service.

Such a commitment has enabled Professional Life to consistently outperform the life insurance industry in the key areas of return on premium, return on invested assets, and return on equity. It is one of only two new entrants that actually posted profits during the last two-year period.

Professional Life's target market is the employee market, one of the most competitive segments of the life insurance market.

And according to Mendoza, the fact that Professional Life excels in the institutional or group insurance market means that the company can competitively deliver the kind of service needed in a highly volatile market environment. He also is convinced that this competitiveness is primarily due to the quality of service that the company delivers to its clients.

"In individual life insurance, things are already pretty much sealed for the rest of the insured's life. You hardly hear of people shifting from one life insurance policy to another. In the corporate group insurance market, however, it's entirely a different, more volatile, ballgame. You have to be able to compete again for the same clients, year after year, as corporate clients easily shift from one insurance provider to another, so what we're saying to be successful in this market says a lot about the company," explains Mendoza.

And with the entry of the new owners, the company is now also embarking on new strategies in order to enhance the kind of service it provides to its clients.

One of these strategies is the revitalization of its distribution channels—the insurance brokers. Plans are afoot to come up with new products that are more responsive to the needs of the corporate market.

Another major strategy is the expansion and buildup of a dynamic agency force that will push our individual products. Professional Life now offers one of the best compensation packages and career options for its sales associates. The company has improved and strengthened its human resource department with the formal creation of a training department.

Early this year, the company will also be opening new sales offices in and outside Metro Manila.

Professional Life will also be actively seeking partnerships or affiliations with other companies and institutions as a means to accelerate the company's growth and presence in the industry.

Mendoza points out that such alliances have already borne fruit. They have resulted in successful closing of big accounts in early December last year with prime companies such as Smart Communications, Boehringer, Euro-Med, Dole Philippines, among others.

Mendoza says that these closings can be directly attributed to the strategic alliance Professional Life has entered into recently with Europ-Assist, a medical services provider with over 140 hospitals accreditation nationwide. This has enabled Professional Life to provide hospitalization services anywhere in the Philippines.

"An important part of the competitive edge of the company is that we're able to provide a unique facility between the distribution channels and us," Mendoza continues.

"Key to the success of a life insurance company in the group insurance business is how you treat your distribution channels. Distribution channels are our lifelines to the market. In the corporate market, our main distribution channels are the brokers. The brokers are very sophisticated and very discriminating.

"And more importantly, they always want very fast action. When they need something they want to get hold of it fast, and you better have what they want, or you will waste their time. The way we approach this is to link them. The broker in his office can now get in touch with us through the Web. And immediately we can get back to them. We're the only one so far that is offering this kind of facility," Mendoza stresses.

"Of course, the best practice that we have inherited from General Electric, the former owners of this company, is the customer-centric culture for which GE has been known for all over the world. We have imbibed, and continue to preserve the best practices of a world-class competitor."

Mendoza then describes an application of what GE calls "The Voice of the Customer." Brokers are invited at least once a year to sit down with the executives, and hear the (voice of the) customer together. There management tries to find out, directly from the battlefront, the things that customers need and the service areas where the company is weak. "This exercise, Mendoza says, "enables us to improve our relationship with them and our responsiveness to their needs."

But more than providing fast service, developing new products, enhancing its services through strategic alliances and affiliations with other companies and institutions, listening to the voice of its customers, and the use of technology, Mendoza shares his vision for Professional Life and its customers.

We see Professional Life as eventually becoming a household word synonymous with the "one-stop financial services provider for the Filipino employee," he says.

Professional Life transfers to a new home

Photos by JOHNNY VILLENA

RIBBONS cut, a Mass and a blessing held, and coins rained inside the office premises as employees of Professional Life cheered behind their bosses who led the official blessing of Professional Life's new headquarters at TPG Towers in Edsa, Mandaluyong in December. Leading the rites were Eulogio Mendoza, president and CEO, Ramon B. Arnaiz, chairman, and Manuel Tordesillas, vice chairman.

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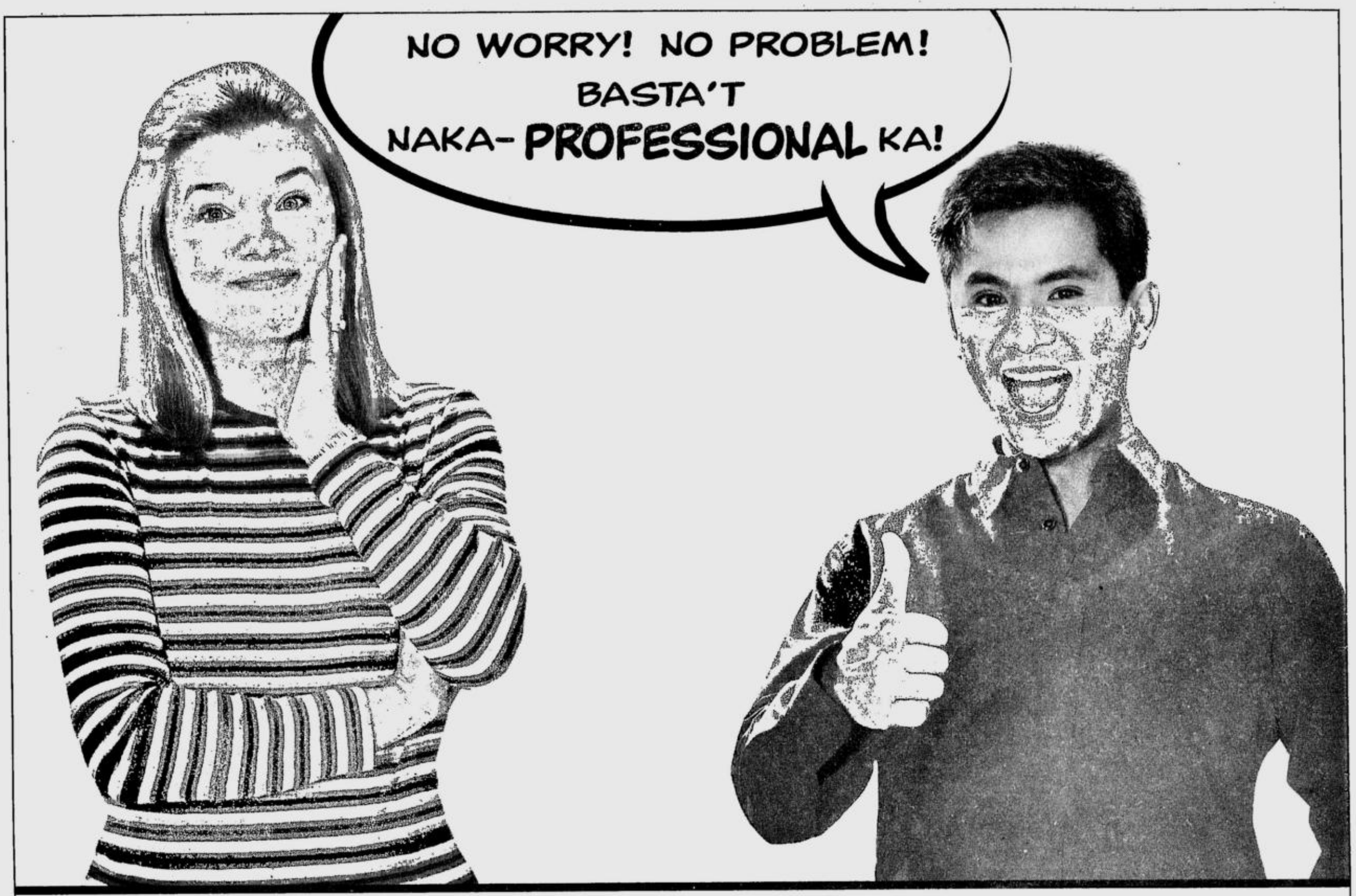
PROFESSIONAL LIFE



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as it joins us in our continuing quest to bring global and local partners to work for you

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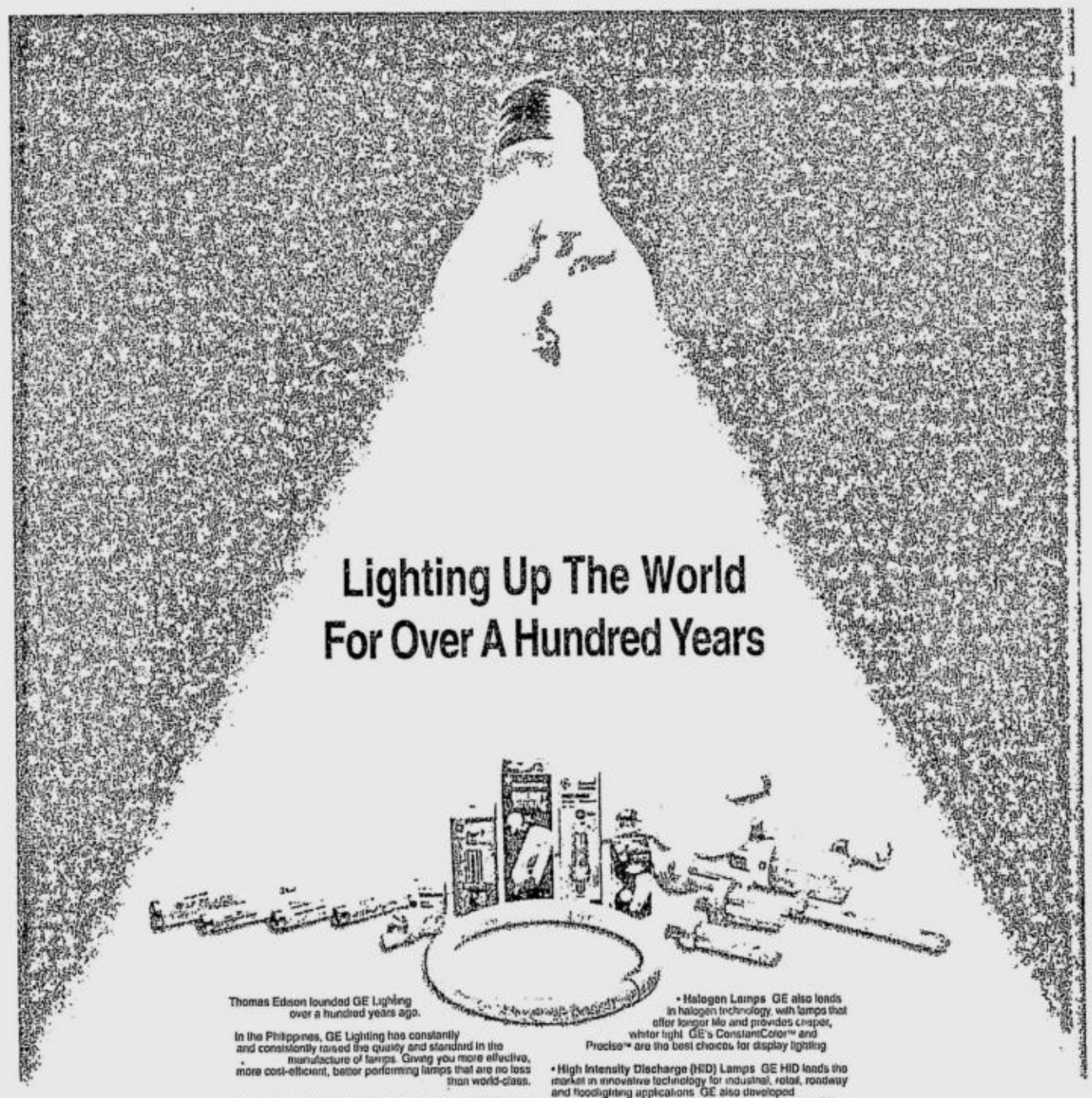

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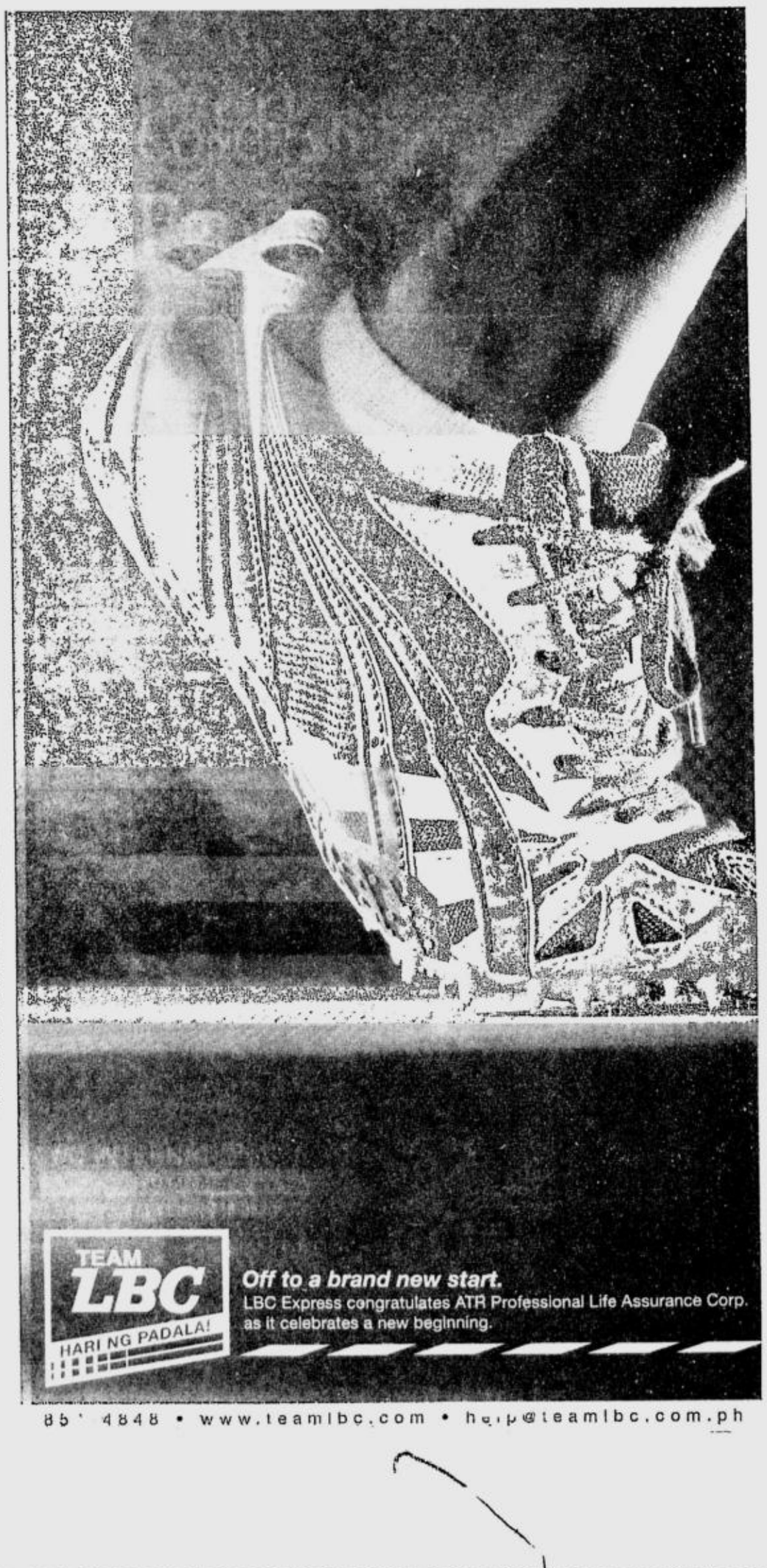


People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Software AG picks Informatics as authorized training partner in RP

INFORMATICS, the global leader in IT training and education, continues to take the lead in offering international IT programs by introducing the latest course on Internet technology. Software AG, the market leader in XML technology, has chosen Informatics to be its authorized training partner in the Philippines.

XML, which stands for eXtensible Markup Language, is a powerful system for managing information. It can be used in combination with many other technologies and can be integrated into everything, including database engines, development tools, web browsers and operating systems. From the outside, XML looks a lot like HTML with tags, attributes and values. However, while HTML serves as a language for creating web pages, XML is a language for creating other languages that one can use to design his own custom markup language.

XML is designed for those who want to improve Intranet applications. It is highly recommended for Web masters, Web developers, Internet professionals, information managers, application development managers, technical editors and writers, knowledge managers and marketing managers. In just 40 hours spread over five days, students will receive intensive training in XML essentials, presentation of XML documents using stylesheets, application programming with document object model (DOM) and simple API for XML (SAX).

Students who complete the course are required to take the certification exam facilitated by Software AG Philippines. As a certified XML engineer, one will be recognized as an expert in XML technologies and a valuable member of any XML project team. The XML certification increases a candidate's marketability here and abroad.

Established in Singapore in 1983, Informatics has grown to over 400 centers in more than 30 countries worldwide. Its strategic alliances with NCC-Education of the UK and the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate allow Informatics students to take globally recognized and validated IT training and education courses that increase their marketability even outside the Philippines.

Early this year, Informatics Computer Institute was awarded 2001 International Franchise of the Year by DTI and the Philippine Franchise Association and 2001 Most Outstanding Computer School by the National Consumers Council. These accolades attest to Informatics' commitment to continuously provide premium quality IT training and education to Filipinos.

BAYANTEL SIGNS UP WITH NORTEL, TRENDS FOR TV ACCESS

BayanTel Telecommunications Inc. has signed a memorandum of agreement with Nortel Networks and Trends & Technologies Inc. Nortel and Trends will provide the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) that will enable BayanTel subscribers to access various information through the use of pre-programmed and pre-recorded voice messages and data.Through this technology, BayanTel subscribers will be able to join TV game shows such as ABS-CBN's 'Game K N B'. Shown (from left) is Reynato R. Jaramillo, BayanTel head for product development and management, with Michael Angelo C. Cruz, BayanTel vice president for logistics; Gary B. Olivar, BayanTel chief finance officer; Hasan Fard, Trends & Technologies chair and chief executive officer; Renan B. Alonzo, Trends & Technologies president, and Antonio Z. Pio de Roda, Nortel Networks managing director.

COMPAQ SIGNS UP NEW PARTNER

Maintaining its leadership in the local market, Compaq Computer Philippines Inc. has signed up Amigo Strategic Solutions Inc. as its new local reseller. Amigo is a competitive, customer-centric, partnership-driven IT solutions and service provider that will further promote the high-performance Alphaserver of Compaq. Sealing the partnership are (seated from left) Edgardo C. Grey Jr., president, Amigo Strategic Solutions, and Nilo S. Cruz, president and managing director, Compaq Computer Philippines. Witnessing the signing are (standing, from left) Butchie L. Rafael, general manager, Amigo; Joel Josol, product marketing manager for high performance servers, Compaq; Lesley Aquino, channel sales manager, Compaq; and Luichi Robles, director for enterprise solutions services group, Compaq. Compaq is a leading global provider of enterprise technology solutions.

E-PAY ASIA, QUICKWEB SIGN AGREEMENT

E-pay Asia Phils. Inc., the pioneer of electronic pre-paid services in the country, and QuickWeb, one of the leading pre-paid Internet Service Providers (ISPs), recently signed an agreement making QuickWeb one of e-pay's major carriers. Present during the contract signing were (standing, from left) Rob Marabut (e-pay Asia country manager), Karen Tiong (e-pay Asia carrier management manager) Lex Adasa, (QuickWeb marketing assistant); (seated, from left) Wilson Lai (e-pay Asia COO/CTO) and Anthony Gabitan (QuickWeb sales and marketing director).

PETRON'S PUMP-A-PRIZE GRAND WINNERS

After awarding over 5,000 instant prizes to lucky motorists, Petron Corp. has named the top 3 winners of its Pump-A-Prize instant win and raffle promo during a grand draw telecast live at SOP. The happy owner of a brand new Chevrolet Silverado is Mark D. Laico (center) from Malabon; while winners of two round trip tickets for two to Bangkok are Julieta Antenor of Taytay, Rizal and Teolfo De Los Angeles of Las Piñas. They received their prizes during simple awarding rites hosted by Petron at the Petron Megaplaza. Present to congratulate the winners were top Petron officials led by chair Nicasio Alcantara and president and CEO Motassim Al-Ma'ashouq.

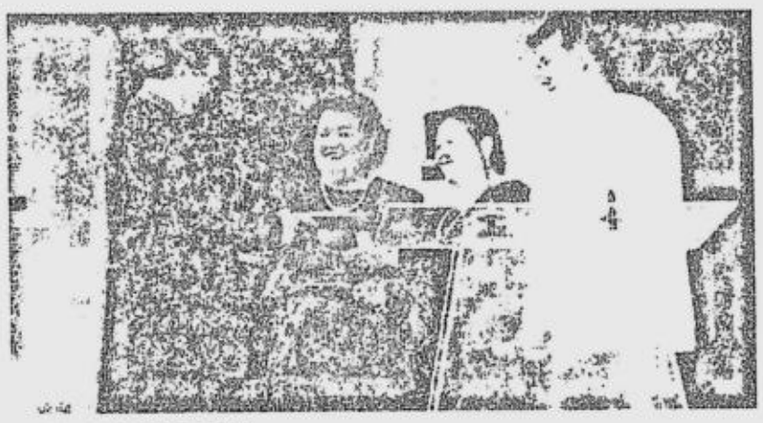
New Pana officers for 2002

RODRIGUEZ

THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers (Pana) wishes to announce its new set of officers and board of directors for 2002.

Elected were president Carminia B. Rodriguez of Citibank, N.A.; vice president A.G. Alcantara, Jr. of Asia Brewery Inc.; treasurer Raul S. Alvarez of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company; secretary Susie Achacoso-Cruz of Godiva Inc.; auditor Emilio L. Samson, Jr. of McDonald's Philippines, and public relations officer Jones T. Campos of Globe Telecom. The new board of directors are Fortunato D. Babasa of The Andresons Group Inc.; Sandra D. Garcia of Dusit Hotel Nikko; Cergen D. Go of Swedish Match Inc.; Angelica P. Suiza of Golden ABC Inc. (Penshoppe); and Gina R. Virtusio of William, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. (Superferry). The executive director is still Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon, dba.

The induction of the officers and board of directors will coincide with the Association's 1st General Membership Meeting on Jan. 25. 12 noon at the Maynila Room of The Manila Hotel. All Pana members are enjoined to attend by calling the Pana office at 890-2989 to 90; 899-5671/91.



VRB HONORS SY

The Video Regulatory Board honors SM chair and founder Henry Sy, Sr. for his unwavering support and cooperation with the government's efforts against piracy and pornography. Shown are (from left) SM's senior AVP Ric Camaligan accepting the award in behalf of Henry Sy, Sr. from VRB vice chair Marilen Dinglasan, VRB chair and CEO lawyer Lualhati Buenafe and VRB executive director Joseph Antonoie Sol.

BITS Clips

CPM opens in San Pedro

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines, the country's first training school in pop singing, will open its 9th branch in San Pedro, Laguna on Jan. 19. The new branch is located at the 3rd floor, Equitable Bank, National Highway, Barangay Landayan, San Pedro, Laguna. Mayor Felisicimo Vierneza of San Pedro is the opening's guest of honor at 4 p.m. The grand opening starts with a motorcade at 3:30 p.m. A blessing and cocktails will be followed by a free concert titled "Starborne" at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacita Complex parking lot. Butch Albarracin is the founder and president of CPMP. Details can be obtained from the San Pedro branch office at 869-6702 or 520-0569.

Foundation sets cardiology seminar

THE FOUNDATION of Lay Education on Heart Diseases Inc., in partnership with the DOH, DECS and DILG, will hold its 2nd national convention on preventive cardiology on Jan. 17 and 18 at the National Library at T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila. The theme is "Preventive Cardiology: For All Health Care Professionals." Dr. Adolfo B. Bellosillo is the president of the foundation and chair of the convention organizing committee. Further information may be obtained from the FLEHD secretariat at Medical Towers Makati, 104 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City at 893-3724 and 817-7393.

Bombo Radyo's strategic planning session

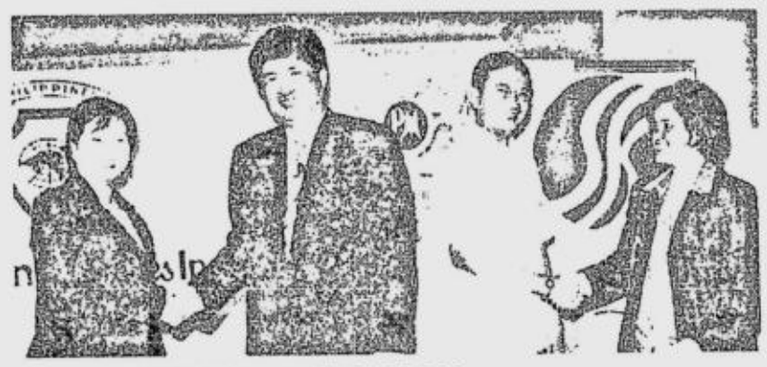
BOMBO RADYO Philippines shows why it has remained the No. 1 radio network in the country for more than a decade now. The Network kicked off the year with its annual Top Level Management Conference 2002 (TLMC) at the Heritage Hotel Jan. 2 to 5. The TLMC, participated in by top station executives of its 43-strong Bombo Radyo and Star FM stations nationwide and the officers of the Network, is a yearly strategic planning session aimed to better equip the delegates in meeting the challenges of continued airwave supremacy and attaining the goals of the new year. This year's theme, "Mac Edge"—acronym for Maintaining Airwave Competitive Edge, reflects the Network's resolve in upholding its leadership in the radio industry.

Nograles at SHDA meet

REP. PROSPERO C. Nograles, chair of the House committee on housing and urban development, will address the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) during its first business meeting for this year today, Jan. 17, 12 noon at the Makati Room of Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Nograles will discuss the major legislative agenda for the housing sector. These include the bills on the creation of a Department of Housing and Urban Development, and setting up of local housing boards. Member-developers and guests may fax their participation forms at 890-0323 or 890-7032, or e-mail shda@mozcom.com.

Don Bosco Mandaluyong homecoming

DON BOSCO Mandaluyong Alumni Association invites all alumni to the annual DBTC Alumni Homecoming on Jan. 26, Saturday, at 3:30 p.m. Titled 77@DBTC, the reunion will take place at Don Bosco Technical College Mandaluyong with special appearances of Bituin Escalante, Mulatto, Souled Out, 3rd Angle and Rubber Band of HS class '67. The event is hosted by DBTC High School batch 1977 and sponsored by Globe Telecom in cooperation with Vitarich and Audio Network. For inquiries, call Jun Bernad at 531-8081, local 203 or 531-6222 for details.



YOUTH SMOKING PREVENTION

Philip Morris Philippines Inc. (PMPh) has gained the support of the Sangguniang Kabataan National Federation (SKNF) and the Philippine Jaycees Inc. (Jaycees) for its Youth Smoking Prevention program. Signing the memorandum of agreement at the Imperial Suites in Quezon City are (from left) incoming Jaycees national president Mabel Villarica-Mamba, PMPh government and community relations manager Raul Academia, SKNF president Richard Alvin Nalupta and PMPh government relations manager Amy Barbasa. PMPh and Jaycees joined SKNF in the kickoff ceremonies recently for the 'Linggo ng Kabataan' (National Youth Week) where more than 100 SK chapters nationwide filed simultaneously a proposed ordinance banning the sale of cigarettes to people below 18 years old.

FAG SOUTH EAST ASIA TECHNOLOGY FORUM

At a recently held technical forum on bearings sponsored by FAG and its Philippine distributor Bearing Center & Machinery Inc. (BCMI), a new strategic alliance was announced. Local maintenance consultant and service provider "Alps Maintaineering Services" will work in tandem with FAG and Bearing Center to enhance the overall value of FAG products in the Philippines. Consumers of FAG products will be the benefactors of quality products, delivered quickly from local stocks and now with enhanced levels of technical service. Shown above at the recent event are (from left) general manager Leonardo Dayon of Alps Maintaineering. Philippine country manager Brian Davis of FAG, regional sales manager Manfred Hanninger of FAG and general manager Joseph Li of Bearing Center and Machinery Inc.

SHDA DEVELOPERS INDUCTED

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has recently inducted in Malacañang the new officers of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, including (from left) Architect Jose de Guzman, board adviser; Roy Calleja, second vice president; Willy Uy, auditor; Fely Ramos, board adviser; Linda Tan and Marcelino Mendoza, governors; Em L. Ang, governor-Visayas; Noel Gonzales, national president; Jesus Atencio, first vice president; Marilu Alferez, board secretary; Andrea Bernhard, board adviser; Melesa Chua, public relations officer; Bansan Choa, treasurer; Manuel Colayco, governor; and Sonny Ducay, executive director.

FROM 'CHEAP' TO HIP

Kia goes full circle with new luxury vans

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

AS STYLISH, hip and cool as any European, American and Japanese luxury brand can get, but not as expensive.

This is the advantage Kia Motors is trumpeting in the Philippines, said exclusive distributor Columbian Autocar Corp., and it wants to harp on this new image to help restart the automotive market to full steam in 2002.

CAC reinforces its new objectives by launching its follow-up upscale vehicles—the 2002 Kia Carnival Sedona mini van, the 2002 Kia Pregio Limousine Luxe Supreme and the 2002 Kia Pregio Festival.

Press previewed Jan. 11, the vehicles are Kia's way of shedding its old image of being mere "entry-level" car and bare-metal light truck makers.

"Given a little more time, Korean brands in general will be able to enjoy similar status as its Japanese counterparts," said CAC marketing services manager Hernando D. Gañac Jr. during the launch.

In the early '90s, Kia in the Philippines was popular for producing its line of compact sedans, the "people's car" Kia Pride series which sold at considerably lower prices than its Japanese and European competitors at the time.

In the late '60s, Japanese models such as Toyota had a similar status problem, said Gañac. At that time, Western brands were having a heyday in the automotive market.

"Eventually, the Japanese manufacturers were able to establish a certain status that they are enjoying right now which is already at par with American and other European brands," he said.

Improved quality

Kia is stressing that it has improved the quality of its cars. "Its current product lineup is very close to what the Japanese and the American brands are offering," Gañac added.

Kia is offering a two-year or 50,000-km warranty—at par with what Japanese manufacturers offer. Kia Motors of America, he cited, is even offering a 10-year/100,000-mile warranty—the longest warranty in the US market. This is proof of the improved quality of Kia vehicles, he said.

Kia, a South Korean automotive firm, entered the Philippines with the Ceres trucks in the late '80s and moved on to passenger cars, the Pride series and the Besta vans in the early to late '90s. CAC eventually started to bring in sleeker, sportier models in 1996 with the 4x4 Sportage SUV and the stylish Pregio LS van.

In 1998, Kia Sephia 5-door liftback and Sportage Big Van were launched in the Philippines. It was also the year when Hyundai Motor Corp. acquired Kia Motors in the midst of the Asian currency crisis.

In 1999, Kia vehicles became visibly more upscale in the Philippines as it introduced its Kia Rio Hatchback and Rio sedan. Soon afterward, Kia introduced its Carnival mini van.

Eventually, Kia was able to develop the Carnival mini van. CAC said that as part of Hyundai Motors Corp., Kia is among the top 10 automotive manufacturers worldwide.

CAC is beefing up its operations and after-sales services as well. Its 15 dealerships in the country may expand into 20 dealerships this year alone.

Carnival evolves

The Sedona is the immediate successor of Kia Carnival, with distinct differences. It has sharper cut lines and dons two-tone metallic colors. The front end sports a large grille with horizontal bars outlined by chrome. New, crystal-pattern head and fog lamps flank the grille.

It even has a foldout table from the back of the front seat.

A 10-seater body on 2.9-liter diesel engine and a double overhead cam, it comes at 5-speed manual or a 4-speed automatic, both with 16 valves with turbo intercooler. The manual transmission is priced at P1.039 million and the automatic goes for P1.089 million.

The Pregio 2002, meanwhile, has two variants—the regular model and the limousine special. The Pregio LS van boasts of four captain's seats, an Audiovox (USA) VCD player, fold flat roof-mounted high LCD TV screen, and six sensurround speakers. Pregio is powered by the J2 2.7-liter diesel engine, and is supported by all coil spring suspension system. The regular model is priced at P730,000, the automatic at P765,000. The limo special goes for P849,000 (manual transmission).

CAC considers the Toyota Hi-Ace and Nissan's Urvan as two of its main competitors for the market for Pregio. Sedona will be going head-to-head against Chevrolet's Venture, according to Gañac.

CAC, however, considers its *masa* (masses) market still important in its business. The old KC27 100 light truck, which had a spartan interior, is also reintroduced. The latest KC27 100 series now boasts of carlike features.

CAC'S Gañac tries on Kia's new pride

SEDONA opens new doors for Kia in the Philippines

REVOLVING seats for Pregio Limo series

Skyway System isn't only the Skyway

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

HUNDREDS of motorists were annoyed last Friday when they discovered that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's temporary suspension of the toll rate increase covers only the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and the Alabang-Calamba segment of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX). It does not cover the much-traveled Magallanes-Alabang segment of the SLEX nor the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway.

As a result, the queues at the tollgate exits were longer than usual as motorists argued with the toll collectors or ventilated their ire. It looked like the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) was defying the President or concocting its own exemption from the suspension order.

There would have been less frayed nerves all around had Malacañang, the Toll Regulatory Board and/or the PNCC made it clear from the start, through a public information campaign, what tollway portions the President's suspension order covers. Too late, signs were posted on tollbooth windows overnight declaring the exclusion of the Magallanes-Alabang stretch from the suspension order.

Matters were not helped any by erroneous news stories as to what entity operates which tollway. For example, this paper's Metro Section reported last Monday that "The PNCC operates the North and South Luzon Expressways, PEA (the Public Estates Authority) runs the Skyway and Citra the Coastal Road."

For the clarification of the motoring public, the facts are: the PNCC owns the franchise over the SLEX and NLEX. The PEA Tollway Corp. owns and operates the 5-kilometer Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway, which is sometimes called the Coastal Road.

When the Metro Manila Skyway Project was approved by the Ramos administration as a joint-venture project, the PNCC and the Indonesia-based Citra Group formed a joint-venture company called Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. (CMMTC). Under their business contract, the CMMTC will fund, develop and build the Skyway System which is now at Stage 1 consisting of the 10-kilometer elevated section from Buendia to Bicutan and the 13.5-km totally rehabilitated at-grade section from Magallanes to Alabang. This is an important "and" since many people mistakenly think that the Skyway System refers to the elevated Skyway alone.

Under the same business contract, the PNCC formed a wholly owned subsidiary, now known as the PNCC Skyway Corp., to operate the Skyway System. The PNCC and PNCC Skyway Corp. are headed by the same chair, lawyer Luis Sison. While PNCC Skyway Corp. runs the Skyway System, the PNCC operates the Alabang-Calamba segment of the SLEX and the entire North Expressway.

Incidentally, the SLEX portion under PNCC's control includes the Alabang Viaduct, which was built more than 20 years ago and appears ready to collapse any day now with disastrous consequences. Motorists who line up on the toll exit lane of the viaduct sometimes feel it shaking under their wheels. The Alabang Village Voice reported recently that the PNCC has tied metal strands around the viaduct's beams to reduce the vibration and prop up the structure, but debris continues to fall on the streets below whenever heavy vehicles pass overhead. Time to avoid the Alabang Viaduct!

As for the NLEX, the Lopez-owned Benpres Corp. has a business contract with the PNCC to rehab and widen it. For this purpose, Benpres formed a subsidiary called the Manila North Luzon Tollway Corp. The elevated Skyway will be extended from Bicutan to Alabang in Stage 2 of the Skyway Project, after which comes Stage 3 involving the construction of an elevated section from Buendia to Balintawak. Ultimately, Citra plans to connect the SLEX with the NLEX via an elevated expressway.

Unfortunately, Citra cannot or will not proceed with Stages 2 and 3 until the toll rates are increased to enable it to repay its dollar-denominated loans, which were incurred when the exchange rate was P26 to US$1.00. The construction of the Skyway System was funded mostly by foreign investments and dollar loans from domestic banks and financing institutions, Citra says. This makes you wonder whether opposition to the toll increase would diminish if Citra reveals how much it owes, how much PNCC Skyway Corp. nets from toll collections and the E-Pass and how much are its operating expenses.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Can't feed 'em? Don't breed 'em.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph.

Civic buyers get special package

HONDA Cars Philippines Inc., together with its dealership network, is giving a special package to buyers of its best selling model, Civic. From Jan. 8 to 31, Civic buyers will enjoy easy financing scheme.

Now, the Civic is within reach at zero percent interest for 12 months at 50 percent down payment. Buyers of Honda's high-end Civic VTi-S model can get savings of as much as P43,224 through a special financing package from any of its accredited banks during the promo period.

What's more! With installment spreading over 5 years, buyers can own a brand-new Honda Civic through incredibly low monthly payments. The 1.5 Civic LXi MT is now available at P8,512 (50 percent down payment; 60 months) per month.

Also, Honda's special financing plans will give buyers an opportunity to drive home a new Civic with the lowest down payment of only 20 percent of the retail price.

On top of these exciting financing options, a cash incentive awaits cash buyers of the new Civic. They can opt to use their cash incentive as payment for free accessories or as insurance subsidy. This does include special freebies from Honda dealers..

'Toll order' for Ate Glo

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

THAT'S one *"pogi"* point Ate Glo scored when she restored the old toll rate on both the South and North Expressways pending the result of studies regarding toll rate increases.

That's because she listened to public pulse. A good leader must always achieve to be like that. You ignore the people all the time, you end up the biggest loser faster than you expect.

It was also wise of her not to touch the Skyway toll rate increase. For, to be sure, the President knew beforehand the existence of the Supplemental Tollways Operation Agreement (STOA).

* * *

And what's the STOA all about?

It is a contract between the government and the investors of the Skyway System entitling the investors to toll increases in the event of a significant peso depreciation.

We all know that between 1995 and 2001, the peso has depreciated by 100 percent from $1 dollar to P26 to $1 to P52. Because of that, debt-servicing requirements of dollar-denominated loans used to fund the Skyway and the rehabilitation of the Magallanes-Alabang/Filinvest at-grade section have substantially increased, such that toll revenues have not been enough to repay loans.

In case you have forgotten, the development and construction of the Skyway System was funded mostly by foreign investors and dollar loans from domestic banks and financing institutions.

The logic is simple: If the government cannot heed the contents of the contract to the letter, we will become the laughing stock in the world business community. Worst, if the government cannot uphold its obligations and contracts with foreign investors for its infrastructure programs, how can it expect to attract or retain foreign investors to participate in future BOTs (build-operate-transfer) that are necessary for the growth of the economy?

* * *

One forthcoming example is the rehabilitation of the North Luzon Expressway. Foreign investors have committed loans amounting to millions of pesos to the project, which is expected for completion in 2004. We decide not to honor our contract with the Skyway investors and we automatically court disaster with the investors to the North Luzon Diversion Road's rehabilitation.

So think twice, buddies, before we mount another protest movement against toll rate increases, please?

For the record, I'm referring to the Skyway, just about the most beautiful thing that ever happened to motorists of the metropolis.

Isuzu Trooper now with esthetic appeal

DIESEL technology leader Isuzu Philippines Corp. recently launched the remodeled 2002 Trooper 4x2.

With esthetic appeal imaging the young, lavish and sporty vibrancy, the 4x2 Trooper 2002 model becomes a symbol of esthetic distinction with its exterior upgrades. It dons a new billet grille kit package, bestowing an opulent classic look. This package includes a radiator and bumper air dam grille, all in billet chrome type. Multispoke alloy magwheels and side stepboards are now standard gears of the newest Trooper mode.

Embellished with decals in gold tone, the new Trooper 2002 model sports a new spare-tire cover that gives accent up till the vehicle's rear side.

Inside, the Trooper 2002 gives first-class amenities with its new set of interior features. The third row is installed with an auxiliary power socket for alternate current access. Dual cup holders are mounted in the second row seat center armrest. The first row is equipped with an OEL (Organic Electronic Lead) type audio head unit/display screen, furnishing the Trooper a touch of new trend in audio technology.

A step up in terms of safety and security feature, the new Trooper 2002 model keyless entry is now outfitted with an alarm alongside its antitheft system. Remote transmitters are also key-integrated for convenience.

With a competitive price of P1,479,000, the remodeled 2002 Trooper has the right balance of practical but elegant solutions for life's daily needs.

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Car show features future vehicles

(Continued from page 12)

in early summer, the 2003 Expedition features the first independent rear suspension on a full-size Ford SUV. The new nine-passenger Expedition has new amenities, too, including heated and cooled seats, biggest front console in the full-size SUV class, 11 cupholders, and sonar as well as radar rear parking sensor system.

Designed to be a family vehicle, the Pilot is Honda's all-new SUV that runs on a 3.5-liter all-aluminum VTEC V6 engine with a 5-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission. The sophisticated drivetrain features Honda's VTM-4 (Variable Torque Management 4WD) full-time all-wheel-drive system with electronically locking rear differential.

Suzuki unveiled the Aerio SX and its other variants. Aerio SX's distinctive exterior styling offers small-car buyers new levels of sportiness, room and aggressive design. The Aerio is also offered as a 4-door sedan in S and GS trim levels, with the same aggressive styling as the SX. The Aerio SX and the Aerio sedans include bold front and rear bumpers, sporty side moldings, wheel flares, aggressive front grille, jewel-like halogen headlights and prism taillights.

All Aerio trims are powered by a 2.0-liter, 16-valve engine that produces 141 hp and 135 lb-ft of torque, available with either a 5-speed manual or a 4-speed automatic transmission. An all-wheel drive version of both vehicles will be available later this year.

DWARFING Just about everyday else, this Ford Mighty F-350 tonka copncept "hints strongly at the shape of the next-generation F-Series."

Volkswagen unveiled its sleek-looking Beetle Turbo S, the sportiest among the Beetle lineup. But what caught the viewers' attention is the company's unveiling of a new concept vehicle called Magellan. Although there are no plans for production, yet, the Magellan as described, is part car, part truck and part SUV.

The Spanish-inspired design vehicle features four-wheel drive, an active suspension, 19-inch wheels and a thoroughly advanced interior. Magellan seats six passengers, and carries a navigation system, called GPS To Go, which can be removed for use outside the vehicle.

Most prestigious

Considered among the most prestigious auto shows in the world, the Naias is the only auto show in the United States to earn the distinguished sanction of the Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles, the Paris-based alliance of automotive trade associations and manufacturers from around the globe.

Since becoming an international event in 1989, the Naias has had 665 North American and worldwide vehicle introductions. Last year's Naias hosted 59 vehicle introductions, including a record 47 international introductions and 12 North American vehicles.

Started in 1907, the Detroit show is one of the longest running auto shows in the US. It has been held in a number of locations in Michigan, including the Michigan State Fairgrounds and the Detroit Artillery Armory. It moved to its home at Cobo Center in 1965.

The total value of the exhibits in the Naias is in excess of $200 million, excluding the value of the more than 700 vehicles in the exhibits.

MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

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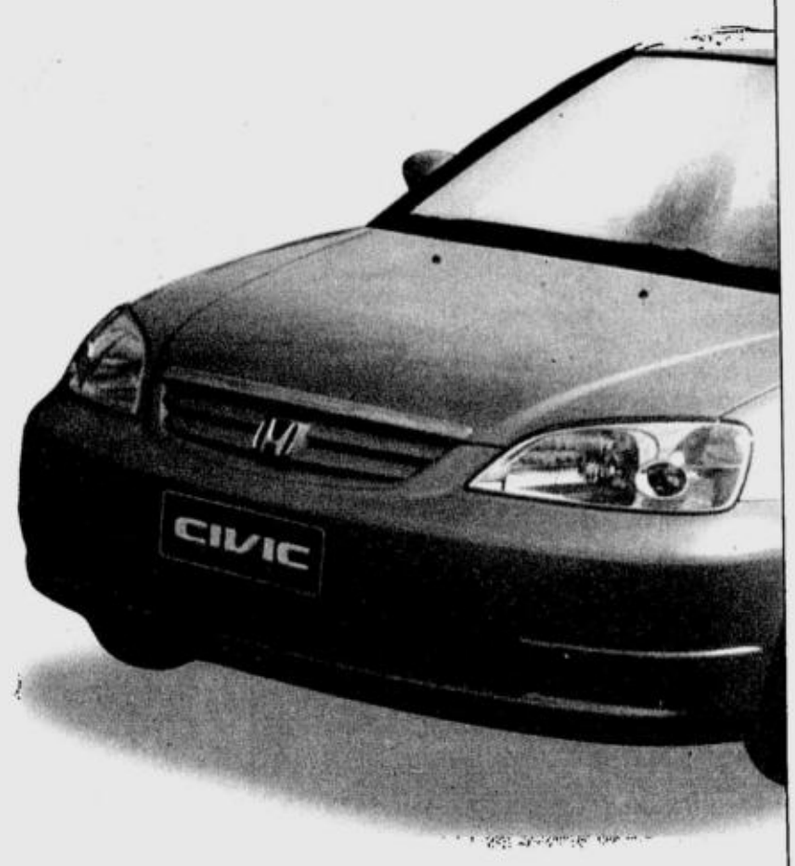

NO.1** MOTORCYCLE SALES 2001

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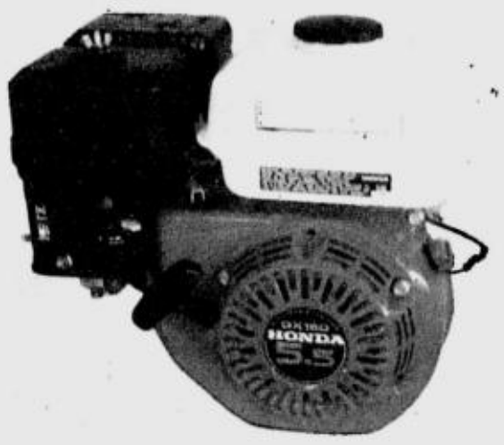

NO.1*** GAS ENGINE SALES 2001

HONDA

The Power of Dreams

* Based on CAMPI,2001 results ** Based on Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association 2001 results *** Based on Agricultural Machines Manufacturers Development Association 2001 results

Car show features future vehicles

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

THE WEATHER in Detroit may be freezing to discourage the average show visitor. However, a true car enthusiast would not have let the snow and chilly winds deter him from feasting his eyes on concept and production cars during the show. Celebrating its 14th year as an international event, the North American International Auto Show (Naias) opened last week with more than 50 new cars unveiled during the motorshow.

The Cobo Center at One Washington Blvd., Detroit, Michigan, is once more this year's venue. The auto showis still open to the public until Jan. 21.

This year's show was highlighted by the worldwide launch of production vehicles from Bentley, T Cadillac, Chevrolet, Ford, Honda, Infiniti, Jeep, Lexus, Kia, Land Rover, Maserati, Subaru, Suzuki, Toyota, Pontiac and Volvo.

Also launched were concept models such as the Acura RD-X, Cadillac Cien, Chevrolet Bel Air, Chrysler, Ford Thunderbird Custom, Infiniti FX45, Isuzu Axiom SSR and SST, Mercedes-Benz GST, Nissan Quest and Saab 9-3X.

Early unveilings

Among the notable unveilings during the early days of the event were the next Toyota Corolla; Lexus GX 470; Ford's Mighty F-350 Tonka concept; three new BMWs; Honda's Pilot; Suzuki's Aerio SX and Aerio GS sedan; and a sporty beetle and another concept car from Volkswagen.

Toyota unveiled its new, ninth-generation, 2003 Corolla—a longer, wider, taller and heavier version than its predecessor. The new Corolla is powered by a 130-hp, 1.8-liter four cylinder that generates a maximum 125 lb.-ft of torque at 4,200 rpm. The latest version of the world's best-selling car (with more than 25 million sold in 142 countries) will arrive in showrooms early this year.

Toyota's luxury brand, Lexus, also launched its third luxury sport-utility vehicle during the Detroit Motorshow. The all-new GX 470 features a new Downhill Assist Control for use in steep downhill descents, as well as a 6,500-lb towing capacity.

BMW introduced its all-new 7-Series sedan at the Naias 2002, including the flagship 760Li. The 745i will go on sale this month in the United States, followed by the longer-wheelbase 745LI. The V12-powered 760Li will debut in the fall of 2002. BMW also showed the X5 4.6is, the high-performance trim of the X5 Sport Activity Vehicle.

Done in partnership with Hasbro's Tonka, the F-350 Tonka is a gigantic F-series pickup truck. It runs on a 6.0-liter turbocharged 32-valve Power Stroke V8 concept engine that can generate 350 horsepower and 600 lb-ft of torque. However, the huge engine operates rather quietly than its current engine counterparts, thanks to its hydraulic rail fuel injection system. The vehicle is the first Ford truck that employs light-emitting diodes (LEDs) in its headlights. LEDs are efficient, using up to 50 percent less electricity than halogen lights.

Ford also unveiled its redesigned 2003 Expedition full-size SUV on the third day of the event. Expected in showrooms

CAR/P.11

LIFESTYLE Tastes

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

SHRIMP California

Good-for-life sandwiches

WHEN John Montagut (English diplomat, d. 1792), the fourth Earl of Sandwich, gave his name to "two slices of bread, usually buttered, with a thin layer of meat, cheese or savory mixture spread between them," he made history. Now we can hardly live without the sandwich as picnic or trekking food, children's *baon*, party staple, cafeteria fare and much more. Would you, I ask students, wish or be able to carry *bibingka*, *tamales* or *suman* in your backpacks and store them in your lockers?

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

They are components of our order-fast or call-for-delivery needs; as family-dining-out opportunities; as an expression of our eating selves

The Filipino sandwich comes from two general traditions: British and American.

The British tradition proceeds from the meal called High Tea: fresh-cut bread in thin slices, filled with genteel fillings like watercress, sliced cucumber, smoked salmon, cheese.

One of my favorite Hong Kong stops used to be Oliver's, which not only offered tea sandwiches, but a growing, dazzling variety: Italian salami with sharp-edged English mustard; rare roast beef sliced paper-thin; ham sliced thick or thin, with or without cheese; roast chicken breast; vegetarian sandwiches with avocado, salad greens, capsicum peppers—anything you can dream of. I would shop, or meet friends for coffee, or browse the bookshops, then drop by Oliver's for sandwiches to take back to the hotel and enjoy in solitary, meditative comfort.

From the American tradition comes such hearty fare as: hamburger patties (quarter-pounders, half- or 2/3 pounders, even kiloburgers) in a bun with lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, relish, mustard, catsup, etc.; BLTs—bacon-lettuce-tomato masterpieces; club sandwiches, triple-layered with meats, eggs, lettuce and tomatoes; Sloppy Joes; steak sandwiches; hot dogs "with everything you've got" (sauerkraut, mustard, etc.); Subs, long as submarines, filled with full meals; charcoal-grilled burgers with flavored toppings, like blue cheese and crumbled bacon; and of course more ordinary chicken,

GOOD/ p.C3

More on sandwiches on page C2

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by Globe Telecom

From crusty rolls to fancy foccacia, with fresh-cooked meat in between

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

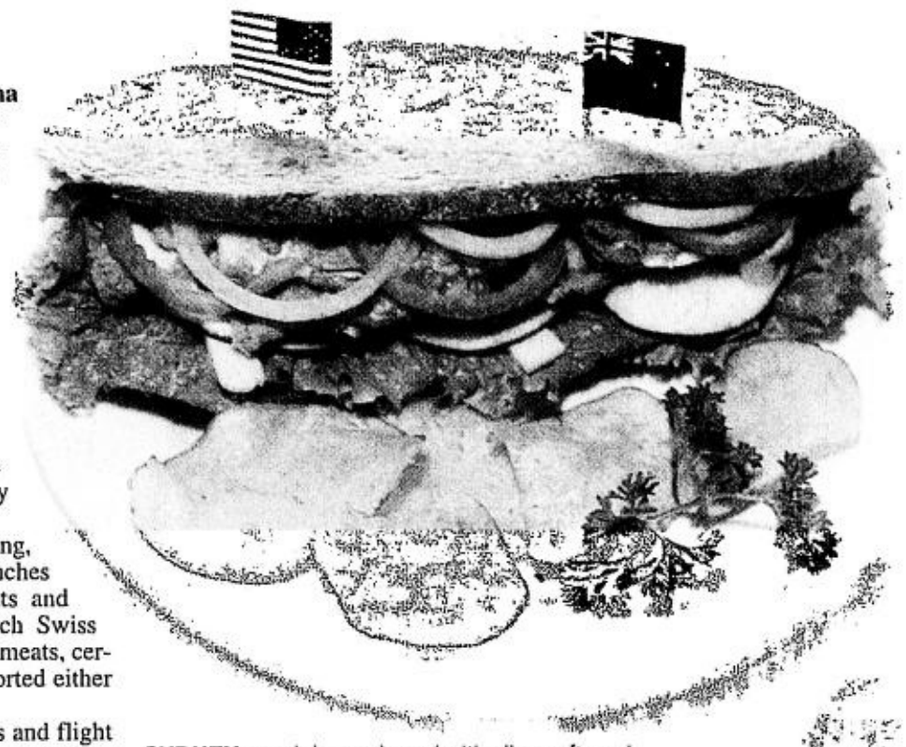
At Almon Marina, the first gourmet sandwich shop in the country, processed beef, turkey or chicken and extenders are a no-no

WHAT sets Almon Marina apart from other restaurants that specialize in gourmet sandwiches? Its name may sound foreign, but the restaurant chain, with eight branches, including one in Cebu, is a purely homegrown venture that began in 1991.

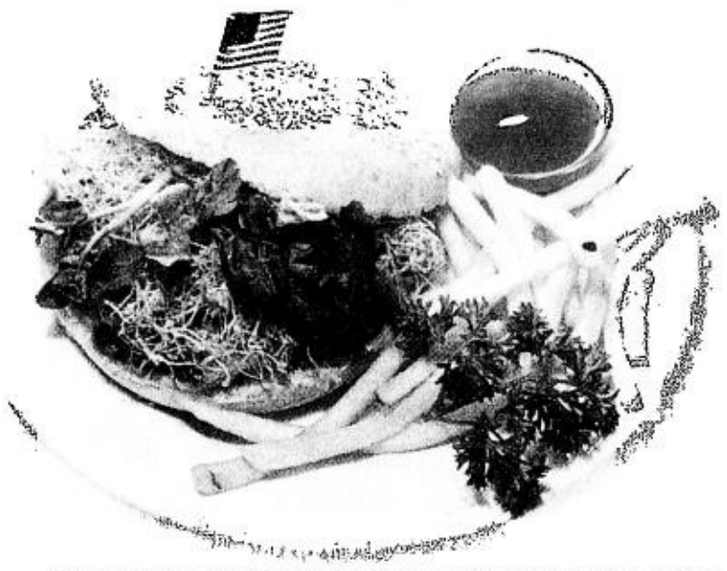
And unlike its competitors, says owner Cesar Montelibano, Almon Marina serves only whole beef, turkey or chicken meat, cut, sliced and deboned. "We don't serve processed meat with all the fats, ligaments and extenders hidden within the meat," he claims. "What they see is what they get."

Thanks to a central kitchen in Alabang, the company is able to supply its branches with fresh or precooked ingredients and baked breads daily. Except for such Swiss cheeses as Gruyere and Emmenthal, meats, certain vegetables and cheeses are imported either from Australia or the United States.

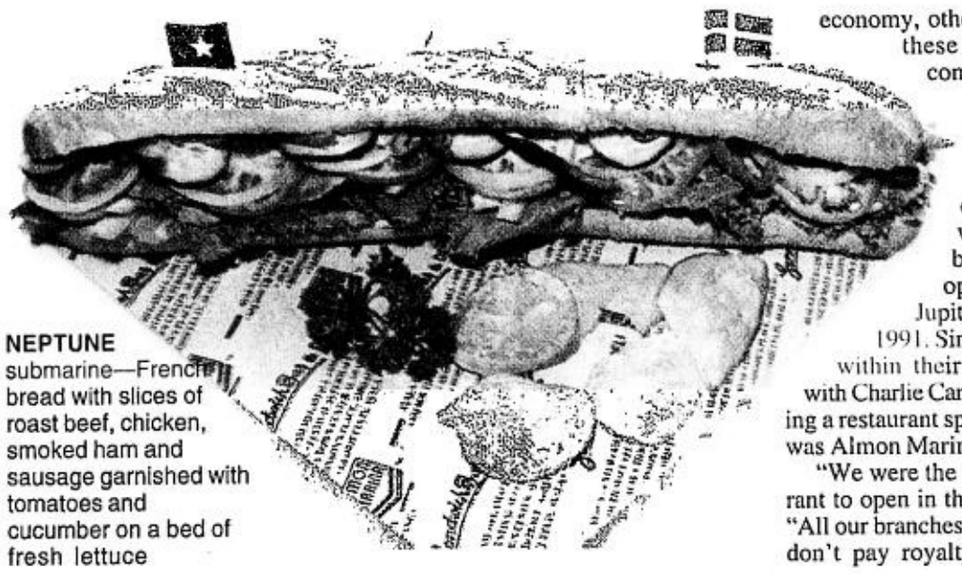
"We used to rely mainly on pilots and flight attendants to bring in fresh ingredients such as salmon and Angus beef," says Montelibano. "But as the government started to liberalize the economy, other suppliers began offering these imported ingredients at competitive prices."



SYDNEY special—rye bread with slices of roast beef, apples, tomatoes and cheddar cheese on a bed of fresh lettuce flavored with horseradish dressing



CALIFORNIA roast beef sandwich with French fries on the side—foccacia bread with slices of roast beef with Emmenthal and Gruyere cheeses, almond flakes, alfalfa sprouts and watercress flavored with a special dressing



NEPTUNE submarine—French bread with slices of roast beef, chicken, smoked ham and sausage garnished with tomatoes and cucumber on a bed of fresh lettuce

The name "Almon" was coined after the first syllables of the Filipino owners' family names—Paul Almendras and Montelibano. The pair was into the export and distribution of seafood before they opened their first deli shop on Jupiter Street in Makati sometime in 1991. Since most of the ingredients were within their reach, the partners, together with Charlie Carmona, hit upon the idea of opening a restaurant specializing in sandwiches. Thus was Almon Marina born.

"We were the first gourmet sandwich restaurant to open in the country," says Montelibano. "All our branches are company-owned. Since we don't pay royalty, we're able to pass on the savings to our customers by giving them only the best and freshest ingredients." Sandwiches range in price from P68 (tuna, cheese and pineapple, among others) to P152 (Swiss raw ham, Parma ham or Westphalian submarine).

PASTRAMI on whole wheat bread with lettuce, onions, tomatoes and potato chips on the side

A-B crowd

The good word spread soon after their first restaurant opened and before long, people at the Ayala Center were knocking on their doors inviting them to open a branch at the Makati mall. Oddly enough, Almon Marina's SM City Cebu branch is the biggest in terms of floor area, while the busiest is still the one located in SM Megamall.

Sandwiches, Montelibano concedes, appeal primarily to the A and B crowd. The market, however, is growing, and its preferences vary depending on the branch's location. Most diners at Almon Marina's SM Southmall branch, for instance, prefer ordinary bread to fancy ones such as rye and foccacia. Diners at the SM Megamall and Alabang Town Center branches are more adventurous.

After all, each branch offers close to 70 types of gourmet sandwiches—from bestsellers such as the pastrami on whole wheat or rye to esoterics such as the bruschetta with fruits and cheese. Dieters have also found an ally in Almon Marina by sticking to seafood-based sandwiches sans rich cheeses and creamy dressings. The hot crab, served like sushi without the rice, and the tuna cheese and pineapple sandwiches are selling well.

"Many Filipinos still think that sandwiches aren't filling enough," says Montelibano. "But people who have tried our sandwiches know that's a myth." The proof, as they say, is in the eating.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer. com.ph

Portable flavor

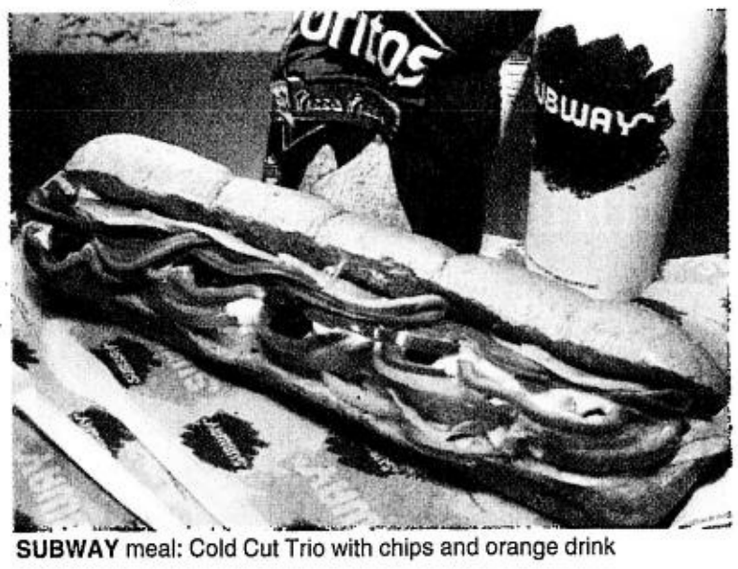
BY ROWENA C. BURGOS

NO time to sit down to a three-course meal? That's the predicament that fostered the invention of the sandwich more than two centuries ago. When a notorious 18th-century British gambler couldn't afford to take time out from a 24-hour marathon to eat, he slapped meat between two slices of bread so he wouldn't miss a hand.

It goes without saying that this portable meal caught on—seems people are just as busy today as the famed Earl of Sandwich. And markets and delis offer so many choices of breads and fillings there's no need to repeat the same combo for months, unless you want to.

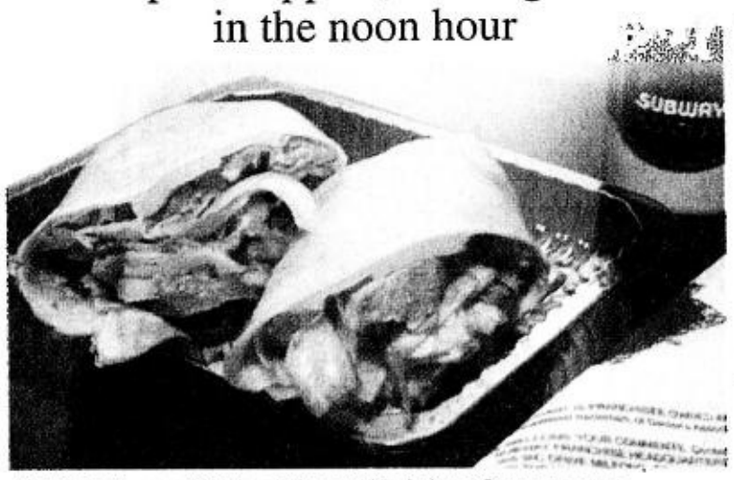
At Subway, sandwiches are not a simple matter of meat and cheese layered between bread. These are a strong menu item, moved forward by their versatility, convenience and widespread appeal. And if sandwiches at one time seemed stuck in the noon hour, at Subway, they now comfortably inhabit the dinner part as well.

Its creative combos, such as New Subway Selects (Horseradish Roast Beef, Honey Mustard Melt, Asiago Caesar Chicken and Southwest Steak and Cheese) and Subway Classics (Cold Cut Trio, Italian BMT, Tuna, Seafood and Crab, Steak and Cheese and Meatball) merge bread with meat, cheese, vegetables, relishes, condiments and sauces.



SUBWAY meal: Cold Cut Trio with chips and orange drink

At Subway, sandwiches are a strong menu item, moved forward by their versatility, convenience and widespread appeal, no longer stuck in the noon hour



ASIAGO Caesar Chicken Wraps with Asiago Caesar sauce

Low in calories

Subway's combinations are low in fat and calories because there is no frying, no butter and no oil. "This is definitely something you can eat at noon and not need to take a nap afterward," says Zareen de la Ysla, operations manager of Subway Rockwell in Makati.

This is especially evident in its 7 Under 6, low-fat menu choices of 6-inch subs, salads and delis that are 350 calories and 6 grams of fat or less. This includes Veggie Delite, Turkey Breast, Turkey Breast and Ham, Ham, Roast Beef, Subway Club, Roasted Chicken Breast and Tuna.

And the chain uses light mayo in its tuna and other salads, and always asks if you'd like light or regular mayo on your sub roll.

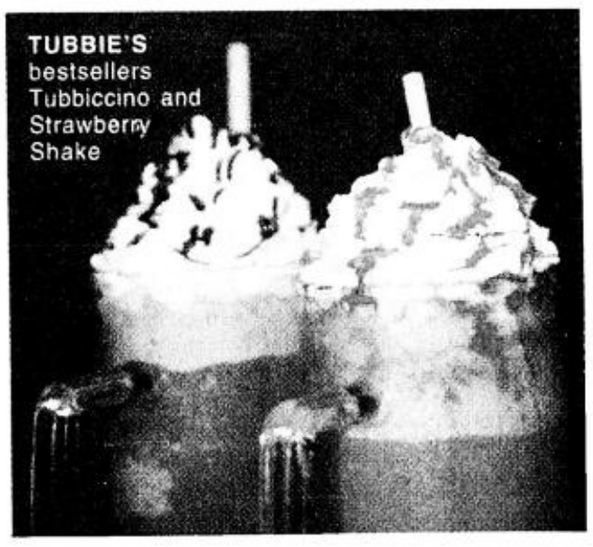
Open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Subway Rockwell's peak hours are from 5 p.m. onward. "This is the time when most people are through with their work or their classes and like to relax by watching movies at nearby theaters. They usually take sandwiches for their dinner or *merienda*," De la Ysla says.

Dubbed as "the undisputed leader" in the submarine sandwich chain since 1987, all of Subway's 14,500 outlets in 73 countries get their meats and paper products like napkins, sandwich bags, place mats and cups from the US. The fresh veggies are homegrown, of course.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer. com.ph

SUBWAY serves sandwiches and salads that are low in fat and calories.
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

If you're a serious sandwich-eater you can make your own meaty version by choosing from chicken sausage, garlic sausage, Hungarian sausage or frankfurter



TUBBIE'S bestsellers Tubbiccino and Strawberry Shake

Uncomplicated but hearty

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES

TUBBIE'S may look too small and cramped to be a deli and a café, but Makati yuppies drop in any time of the day because of its wide selection of oversized gourmet sandwiches and refreshing drinks. The unpretentious café-deli has only eight tables and can accommodate only 40 persons, but it keeps a steady stream of customers who enjoy its smoked salmon on wheat bread, topped with Philadelphia cream cheese or dill sauce, its juicy roast beef sandwich or the peppered pastrami sandwich.

At Tubbie's (Unit G 104 Cristina Condominium, Herrera corner Sotto Street, Legaspi Village, Makati) all the sandwiches are filled with nothing more complicated than organic lettuce, tomato, cucumber, pickles, mayo and French's mustard. The hearty sandwiches are served plain and simple on a clean white platter—nothing elaborate but every bite is delicious. Makati office workers and businessmen will find a full meal in Tubbie's oversized sandwiches, in variations of tuna, chicken, turkey, smoked ham, smoked bacon, corned beef and beef salami. But, if you're a serious sandwich-eater, you can make your own sandwich by choosing from any of the following and they'll serve it just as you like it: chicken sausage, garlic sausage, Hungarian sausage or frankfurter.

The semi-self service deli and café also serves pasta dishes (pesto and Spanish bolognese), soups, cold cuts and wicked pastries and cakes. Among the favorites are the sinful mocha mud pie, Oreo cheesecake and the Tasmanian chocolate cake.

Coffee is served in its many wondrous forms and flavors. As a café bar, Tubbie's takes pride in its chilled or steaming hot coffee made from local beans. Coffee and gourmet sandwiches can be delivered within the Legaspi Village and selected areas in Salcedo Village (tels. 752-5408/5206).

Tubbie's in Makati, which opened last year, is run and operated by business partners Reuben Steven Sy, 28, and Nila Mendiola, 38. "Tubbie's is actually a franchise, which we bought from our good friend Anna Banaga, who put up the first Tubbie's in BF Parañaque," says Sy, a real estate broker. The third Tubbie's is located on Legarda Street in Manila. "We were regular patrons of Tubbie's and we liked her concept."

Sy and Mendiola both needed a place to hold small meetings with their respective clientele so instead of going somewhere else, they thought of opening their own eating place. "Tubbie's is chic and cozy enough for intimate meetings and dining," says Sy. A splash of bright hues greets customers at Tubbie's, giving the place a young, hip ambience. Replicas of surreal paintings accentuate the walls, while dramatic lighting adds to the relaxing dining experience.

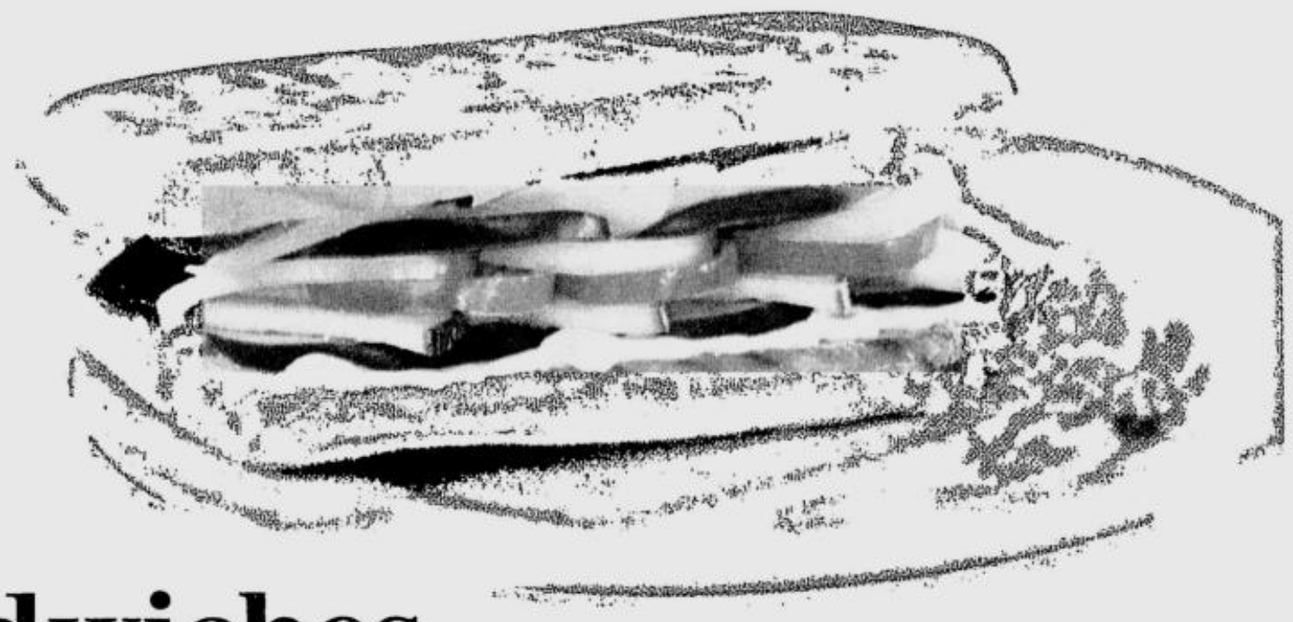
E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer. com.ph

ROAST beef sandwich

PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

PHILLY Cheese Steak

SICILIAN Sandwich



Good-for-life sandwiches

(From page C1)

ham, egg, egg salad, turkey, etc. sandwiches.

These are fun to order not only at fast-food counters, but especially at drugstores and delis in the US, especially in New York, where the kosher dill pickles are fresh and crunchy, and where reign as well pastrami, corned beef and Swiss cheese (have you tried a Reuben?). You order and they come fast, "seaboard" (to go) or not. The Carnegie Deli near Carnegie Hall has tall sandwiches filled with mountains of thinly sliced pastrami or corned beef so tall that one can hardly ever finish a sandwich, and must take at least half home.

From this line come our humbler, day-to-day cheese pimiento, shredded chicken with mayonnaise, egg salad, etc.: sandwiches for *baon*, class or dorm parties, donations to worthy causes (fine Ateneo parents made boxes of sandwiches during the Edsa Revolution, to distribute at the gates of Camp Crame to protesters who could not take off for home), handing out at election time (sometimes with "value added" accompaniments); student fund-raisers.

Legendary at the Ateneo was a college student who made delicious sandwiches for her own *baon*: mushrooms, roast beef, etc. Soon her classmates were trading their *baon* for hers; soon she was accepting orders. By senior year she was carrying a fully loaded *bayong* with sandwiches for sale or on order, and when she graduated, she bought a car with her sandwich earnings.

Two dozen choices

When Surfshop, my e-mail server, offered me a free BLT from Oliver's Super Sandwiches (slogan: Good for Life) for my birthday, I did not refuse. We went to the Rockwell store (there are about 10 such stores) to sample the offerings. We had a Honey Roast Ham with Cheese and a Beef Pastrami plus the BLT, and found them too hearty to finish right there. Twenty-four Super Sandwiches are listed, with Smoked Salmon with Cheese (P229) the most expensive, and Creamy Egg Mayonnaise the least (P78). Each comes wrapped, ready to eat there or take home.

Grilled sandwiches include Cheese and Tomato; Bacon, Cheese and Tomato; Ham and Cheese; Pineapple, Ham and Cheese, and Hungarian Sausage. Supplements include hot baked potatoes and baked beans. And a soup of the day: Crab and Corn, which was quite good, but was disappointingly served in a microwavable plastic tub, the kind you expect tomatoes to come in. Drink soup from a plastic tub? How about a plastic, microwavable cup, or even a paper cup? The supervisor admitted that this bothered many customers, and said she would add my plea to theirs—please to serve soup in a decent container.

We also loved the Iced Latte and the Iced Mocha, and look forward to trying the salads and pastas. Special promos include Bottomless Iced Tea, Buy-One-Take-One sandwiches, 50-percent discount on salads and cakes after 5 p.m. each day. (The Rockwell Shop is on 3/L, Cinemas, the Power Plant Mall, Makati; hotline 898-1393; online orders at www.olivers.com.ph.)

Oliver's Super Sandwiches (Good for Life) are good to have around as part of our get-up-and-go lifestyles; as components of our order-fast or call-for-delivery needs; as family-dining-out opportunities; as an expression of our eating selves.

The Once and Future Sandwich is, like love, here to stay.

Holiday postscript

If you still crave party fare and sweets, try Gene Gonzalez's Smiling Chef at Café Ysabel (455 P. Guevarra St. corner C.M. Recto St., San Juan, tel. 725-5089, 726-93260). The cakes range from Fruit Cake to American Truffle Cake, Caramel Crunch, Café Ysabel Torte, Chocolate Paradise, Strawberry Shortcake, Chocolate Obsession and more. Desserts include White Chocolate Mousse, Tiramisu, Brazo de Mercedes, etc. Pastries: Panaritas, Ensaimada, Food for the Gods, etc. And the Tocino del Cielo is rich, syrupy, translucent, golden—the kind mentioned in N.V.M. Gonzalez's short story, "Bread of Salt."

Or gift yourself in 2002 with new cooking skills. Gene's Center for Asian Culinary Studies (also at Café Ysabel) offers a Professional Culinary Arts Program (nine months, from February to October), preparation for professional entry into the food service industry. For the month of January, short Recreational and One-Day Business Classes are taught daily by Chef Gene and Chef Jill Sandico: pastas, crabs, Japanese meals, sausages, desserts and many more.

PRU LIFE UK Her

Man from the PRU

Severiano C. Co
Blue Pearl

Special Awards

Branch Manager of the Year

Henry C. Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Unit Manager of the Year

Jaime M. Barba
Blue Pearl

Rookie of the Year

Gwendolyn G. Pardo
Blue Pearl

Agent of the Year

Severiano C. Co
Blue Pearl

PRU LIFE UK Branch of the Year **Cebu Blue Pearl** "Five years in a row!"

Top Producers

Katherine L. Yap*
Blue Pearl

Maria Isabel Cokai
China Jade

Gwendolyn G. Pardo
Blue Pearl

Gilbert K. Chua
Blue Pearl

Ariel E. Rosales
Garnet

Edwin C. Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Nellie Yeo King*
China Jade

Artemio C. Wapanio
Blue Pearl

Pedro O. Lim
China Jade

Record Breakers

Highest Single Premium in Pesos

Severiano C. Co
Blue Pearl

Highest Single Premium in Dollars

Jeremy Tan
China Jade

Highest Sum Assured in Pesos

Severiano C. Co
Blue Pearl

Highest Sum Assured in Dollars

Tony R. Francisco
Ruby

Highest API (Producer Level)

Severiano C. Co
Blue Pearl

Highest API (Agent Level)

Severiano C. Co
Blue Pearl

Highest API (Unit Level)

Jaime M. Barba
Blue Pearl

Highest API (Branch Level)

Henry C. Gocuan
Blue Pearl

100% Agent Activity Ratio

Rina Siacunco
Garnet

Highest Case Count (single month)

Maria Isabel Cokai
China Jade

Longest Running Branch of the Month Winner

Henry C. Gocuan
Branch Manager
Cebu Blue Pearl

International Convention Winners

Producer Level (Spain Winners)

Severiano C. Co
Blue Pearl (London Qualifier)

Katherine L. Yap*
Blue Pearl (London Qualifier)

Maria Isabel Cokai
China Jade (London Qualifier)

Nellie Yeo King*
China Jade (London Qualifier)

Henson Dave K. Tan*
China Jade (London Qualifier)

Gwendolyn G. Pardo
Blue Pearl (London Qualifier)

Gilbert Chua
Blue Pearl (London Qualifier)

Edwin C. Gocuan*
Blue Pearl (London Qualifier)

Pedro O. Lim*
China Jade

Ma. Lourdes Yap
Blue Pearl

Artemio C. Wapanio
Blue Pearl

Wila A. Bahod
Garnet

Ariel E. Rosales
Garnet

Arceli Tan
Tektite

Jeff U. Damayo
Blue Pearl

Marie Dakay
Blue Pearl

Debbie O. Borromeo
Blue Pearl (London Qualifier)

Belen Lourdes E. Aritao
Ruby

Bernadette Tad-y
Blue Pearl (London Qualifier)

Albert Yung
Chrysolite

Antonette Mahinay
Blue Pearl

Maria Cherrie Tan
Blue Pearl

Juliet A. Kintanar
Blue Pearl

Cornelio C. Pahang
Blue Pearl

Francis Albano
Blue Pearl

Cristina L. Go*
China Jade

Sonia U. Albano
Diamond

Irene G. Yu
Blue Pearl

Connie Bayaborda
Jasper

Arnel Arriola
Diamond

Loreta Chio
China Jade

Dolly Jane Bok
Blue Pearl

Matea Bitong
Diamond

Jeremy Tan
China Jade

Jo-an Darlene Chua
Amethyst

Adora L. Tudias
Garnet

Conchita C. Tan**
Amethyst

Julian Martirez
ADD Branch

MESSAGES

It is only fitting that we begin the new year by paying tribute to the women and men who are the pillars of PRU LIFE of U.K.'s success. The challenging environment that 2001 presented only served to highlight the impressive results you have all achieved. It is your persistence and perspiration, your caring and understanding, your ability to listen that has enabled PRU LIFE of U.K. to make a tangible and concrete difference not only for our customers but also for the communities that we serve.

When Prudential of U.K. first came to the Philippines in 1996, we made a promise to the Filipino people. We pledged that we would help Filipinos far and wide achieve their hopes and aspirations. Today, we renew that pledge. As the Filipinos have chosen PRU LIFE of U.K. to be their partner in fulfilling their dreams, so too does Prudential of U.K. remain steadfast in our commitment to the long-term development of our business in the Philippines.

I am proud to take part in honoring the 2001 Top Achievers and invaluable members of the Circle of Prudence. These awards are a reflection of your zeal, dedication and achievement and a clear sign that PRU LIFE of U.K. will be doing more than its fair share in improving the lives of the Filipino people.

My heartfelt congratulations to all of you and may 2002 bring you to even greater heights!

Dan Bardin
Managing Director South Asia
Prudential Corporation Asia

To the brave Men and Women of the Pru,

Congratulations! We ended the year once again with a record-breaking performance that gave Pru this harvest of heroes that I now salute.

The year 2001 was a tough one, and in fact, there were times that it seemed the whole world would just stop under the weight of catastrophe and unforeseen tragedy. But not for agents like you. As in previous years, trials and adversities only served to strengthen our resolve to propel our Company to the top of the charts. History, and our records all support our claim that we are on our way to becoming the best in the business.

This year we honor 139 achievers, 17 of whom are MDRT, top of the hill, world class agents. That's double the number of qualifiers we generated in 2001. We saw our organization grow overnight, we saw our agents break record after amazing record. I can honestly tell the whole world beware of the Pru agent with a vision.

The Year of the Horse beckons us to get ready for another challenging race. I am confident that with the focus, determination, and skill you possess you will once more bring home the trophy for Pru Life UK.

In behalf of all your colleagues in the Home Office, I thank you for the honor that you bring to your Company, and your country. And may you have another bountiful year ahead of you!

Bobby Madrid
President & CEO

oes of Year 2001

Special Awards Runners-Up

Branch Manager Level

Koa Hue Hun
China Jade

Cheryl Lynn J. Martinez
Diamond

Unit Manager Level

Katherine L. Yap
Blue Pearl

Edwin C. Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Rookie of the Year

Bernadette Tad-y
Blue Pearl

Marie Dakay
Blue Pearl

Agent of the Year

Maria Isabel Cokai
China Jade

Gwendolyn G. Pardo
Blue Pearl

Triple A Awardees

Nellie Yeo King*
China Jade

Henson Dave K. Tan*
China Jade

Jacqueline Grace T. Lao
Amethyst

Pedro O. Lim*
China Jade

Connie Bayabords*
Jasper

Nonette DS. Reyes*
Ruby

PA Top Producer

Branch Manager

Myrna Galban
Ruby

Unit Manager

Katherine L. Yap
Blue Pearl

Agent

Arlene Diamante
Jet Stars

Group Top Producer

Julian Martirez
ADO Branch

Unit Level

Edwin C. Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Jaime M. Barbe
Blue Pearl

Katherine L. Yap
Blue Pearl

Henson Dave K. Tan
China Jade

Nellie Yeo King
China Jade

Melanie Briones
Diamond

Branch Level

Henry C. Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Koa Hue Hun
China Jade

George Buncayo
Jasper

Cheryl Lynn J. Martinez
Diamond

Case Counters Club

Centennial Club

Maria Isabel Cokai
China Jade

Wilo A. Bahod
Garnet

Silver Club

Severiano C. Co
China Jade

Bronze Club

Leonides V. Peña
Garnet

Belen Lourdes E. Aritao
Ruby

Clara Batolne
Tekita

Pedro O. Lim*
China Jade

Connie Bayabords*
Jasper

Henson Dave K. Tan*
China Jade

Maria Cherrie Tan
Blue Pearl

Nellie Yeo King*
China Jade

Maria Lourdes Yap
Blue Pearl

Cornelio C. Pahang
Blue Pearl

Cristina L. Go*
China Jade

Edwin C. Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Matea Bitong
Diamond

Arnel R. Arriola*
Diamond

PRU Quality Award

Lourdes Garcia — Ruby
Arcell Tan — Tekita
Debbie O. Borromeo — Blue Pearl
Maria Cherrie Tan — Blue Pearl
Nellie Yeo King — China Jade
Cristina L. Go* — China Jade
Manfredo Marpa — White Opal
Ma. Lourdes Yap — Blue Pearl
Cornelio C. Pahang — Blue Pearl
Artemio C. Wapanio — Blue Pearl
Gilbert K. Chua — Blue Pearl
Edwin C. Gocuan — Blue Pearl

Achievers Club

Grand Master Club

Maria Cherrie Tan
Blue Pearl

Master Club

Severiano C. Co
Blue Pearl

Katherine L. Yap*
Blue Pearl

Edwin C. Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Nellie Yeo King*
China Jade

Henson Dave K. Tan*
China Jade

Debbie O. Borromeo
Blue Pearl

Star Club

Maria Isabel Cokai — China Jade
Gwendolyn G. Pardo — Blue Pearl
Gilbert K. Chua — Blue Pearl
Ariel E. Rosales — Garnet
Artemio C. Wapanio — Blue Pearl
Pedro O. Lim — China Jade
Ma. Lourdes Yap — Blue Pearl
Arcell Tan — Tekita
Wilo A. Bahod — Garnet
Bernadette Tad-y — Blue Pearl
Albert Yung — Chrysolite
Maria Dakay — Blue Pearl
Belen Lourdes E. Aritao — Ruby
Jeff U. Domayo — Blue Pearl
Antonette "Bebie" Mahinay — Blue Pearl
Cornelio C. Pahang — Blue Pearl
Jeremy Tan — China Jade
Matea Bitong — Diamond
Cristina L. Go* — China Jade
Juliet A. Klotzaar — Blue Pearl

President's Circle

Conchita C. Tan** — Amethyst
Jocelyn Grace T. Lao — Amethyst
Loreto Chio — China Jade
Melchor Ong Uy* — China Jade
Steve S. Sy — China Jade
Lorna L. Reyes — Diamond
Melanie Briones — Diamond
Susie U. Albano — Diamond
Irene G. Yu — Blue Pearl
Belinda Patalinjug — Blue Pearl
Marilen Fondevilla — Barrameda & Ass.
Emmanuel Atilla — Blue Pearl
Adora L. Tudlos — Garnet
Raul C. Roldan* — Gold
Arnel Arriola — Diamond
Lolita Tan Eng Sy — Blue Pearl
Jo-an Darlene Chua — Amethyst
Edgardo Enriquez — Diamond
Charina Legda — Gold
Veronica Sun — Jasper
Francis Albano — Blue Pearl
Paul Borromeo — Barrameda & Ass.
Connie Bayabords* — Jasper
Caridad Manabat — Jasper
Dolly Jane Bok — Blue Pearl
Dennis De Guia — Diamond
Willredo Mascoso — Jet Stars
Helen Yap — Blue Pearl
Ryan Yu — Blue Pearl
Arsenio Vasquez — Jasper
Maricel Lim — Gold
Juanita Ong — Blue Pearl
Ed Latanio — Blue Pearl

Senior Achiever

Monette Mendez — Blue Pearl
Ma. Carmen Ayco — Ruby
Ana Teng — China Jade
Arlene Anonuevo — Diamond
Ma. Teresita Atal — Diamond
Ma. Teresa Gallego — Blue Pearl
Imelda Lu — Ruby
Wilma Tenedero — Garnet
Rafael Asprer — Blue Pearl
Juliet Ko — Amethyst
Emmanuel Siscuoco — Garnet
Sonia Tanchico — Blue Pearl
Stella Gonzales — Crystal
Nancy Ampoguey — Garnet
Charlie Tang — Peridot
Grace Ong — Garnet
Alfredo Kho — China Jade
Shirley Tan — China Jade
Ayn Kira Soriaga — Blue Pearl
Fanita Qian — Gold
Leah Santiago — Diamond
Manfredo Marpa — White Opal
Edna De Bones — Jasper
Jinky Adolfo — Blue Pearl
Irina Lalwet — Garnet
Peter Dalescore — Blue Pearl
Maribel Espayos — Blue Sapphire
Cecilia Tio — China Jade
Jerry Ng — China Jade
Jacqueline Lao — Amethyst
Theresa Hinolan — Jet Stars

Qualifying Member

John Legaspe — Malachite
Salvacion Mojares — Blue Pearl
Ligaya Daniel — Jasper
Lourdes Garcia — Ruby
James Buccubung — Peridot
Ma. Fides Yap — Blue Pearl
William Ko — Jet Stars
Lyneth Carpio — Blue Pearl
Mylene Ortega — Diamond
Stephanie Flores — Blue Pearl
Josefa Tee — China Jade
Anne Lilia Gutierrez — Jasper
Cheryl Tanchico — Diamond
Arlene Jumangit — Blue Pearl
Albert Chan — Crystal
Antonio Francisco — Ruby
Jacinto Tan — Blue Pearl
Luis Go — Blue Pearl/Borromeo & Ass.
Arlene Diamante — Jet Stars
Maria Fe Asprer — Blue Pearl
Nemesio Relion — Blue Pearl
Conchita Yu — Blue Pearl
Jeannette Ferrer — Golden Agate
Elva Mae Lamba — Gold
Henry Gocuan — Blue Pearl
Nanette Yeo — China Jade
Lolita Uy — China Jade
Vicky Ante — Ruby
Annabelle Duran — Garnet
Mina Acot — Garnet
Ma. Asuncion Candelaria — Amethyst
Jose Crizzel Nagapatan — Diamond
Victoria Marcado — Jasper
Louelle Collado — Crystal
Samuel Telaboc — Barrameda & Ass.
Arlene Rex — Blue Pearl
John Yap — Blue Pearl
Ma. Teresa Leguarda — Blue Pearl
Leslie Angeyan — Garnet
Luisa Arambulo — Diamond
Thelma Lauzon — Jasper
Cheryl Lynn J. Martinez — Diamond
Charito Mendoza — Cotton Agate/Bandeau & Ass.
Marilyn Ong — Blue Pearl
Jaime Barbe — Blue Pearl
Anthony Tirona — Peridot
Cecilia Malaluan — Barrameda & Ass.

Circle of Prudence

Sherwin V. Aspiras

Model employee who exemplifies Prudential's basic operating principles of R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

PRU LIFE U.K.

WE'RE HERE TO LISTEN

INTERIOR designer and restaurateur Marcelo Alonzo before the café's comics-inspired mural

BAR area

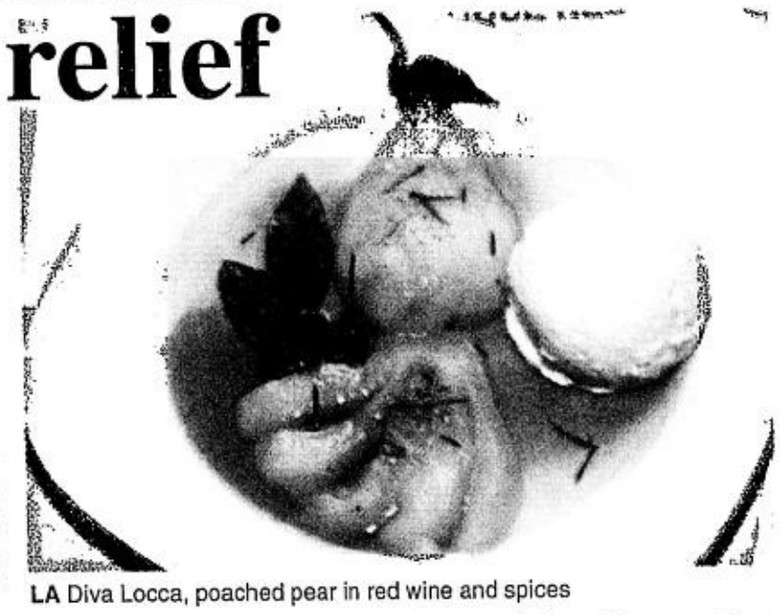
Comic relief

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

THE ZANY world of Kenkoy and other popular Filipino fictional icons have come alive not in print, but in the dishes and interior of Komiks, the newest café to open in trendy Malate.

Tucked in a cluster of establishments that recently opened one after another at the corner of Julia Nakpil and Maria Orosa Streets, Komiks offers a fascinating lineup of dishes inspired by Kenkoy, his ladylove Rosing, Dharna (yes, with an h) and Dyesabelle (don't forget the last two letters), among others.

Kenkoy, of course, is the funny but endearing *vida* in the comic strip written by the late Tony Velasquez and illustrated by Vir Flores. Kenkoy gets himself into all sorts of trouble in his attempts to impress Rosing. Interior designer-turned-restaurateur Marcelo Alonzo, with the blessings of Velasquez's widow, Pilar, has secured the rights to use Kenkoy as the café's official mascot. Kenkoy's inimitable face—sleek hair, bright eyes, toothy grin and all—graces Komiks' menu, napkins, plates and souvenir merchandise, including Bench T-shirts with Kenkoy's face splashed in front.



LA Diva Locca, poached pear in red wine and spices

"We hope to revive Filipinos' awareness and interest in Kenkoy," says Alonzo. A mural featuring Kenkoy and stylized versions of Darna, Kalabog and Bosyo, Ikabod, Valentina and Dyesebel occupies a portion of the café's wall. Five groups of artists supposedly worked on the mural. A smaller artwork featuring imaginary front covers of comics hangs by the bar.

Surprisingly, Komiks has gone beyond all-time Filipino favorites to include American, Italian and Japanese dishes in its menu. Believe it or not, it also offers several Eastern European-inspired desserts. Alonzo is proud of providing diners with a "slow food" experience, an art that has been slowly losing its appeal because of big fast-food chains.

"Reading comics has been a favorite Filipino pastime. Unfortunately, modern technology has relegated it to the sidelines. The same could be said of our dining experience," says Alonzo.

Eclectic menu

But why the eclectic lineup? "Because of exposure, people's tastes have become varied," says Alonzo. "I want to provide Malate regulars with a place to go to that could cater to their growing preferences."

Kenkoy, the funny and endearing Pinoy comic strip character, is the official mascot of this new Malate restaurant

DYNAMIC Duo, potato and camembert cheese gratin

There's Dharna's Delight, a refreshing medley of pear and orange salad garnished with croutons, raisins, pine nuts, shaved blue cheese and orange dressing. For a more organic and supposedly lighter fare, Komiks also offers Kenkoy's garden salad made of fresh organic greens in a special dressing.

The Dynamic Duo gratin, a house specialty, combines mouth-watering potato and camembert cheese baked in cream made zestier with smoked bacon. Komiks also caters to cheese lovers with such offerings as Ques o'rama (a medley of Brie and Swiss cheese) and Paborito ni Rosing (*kesong puti* marinated in olive oil, fresh herbs, peppercorns and lemon). Both items are served with fruits and toasts.

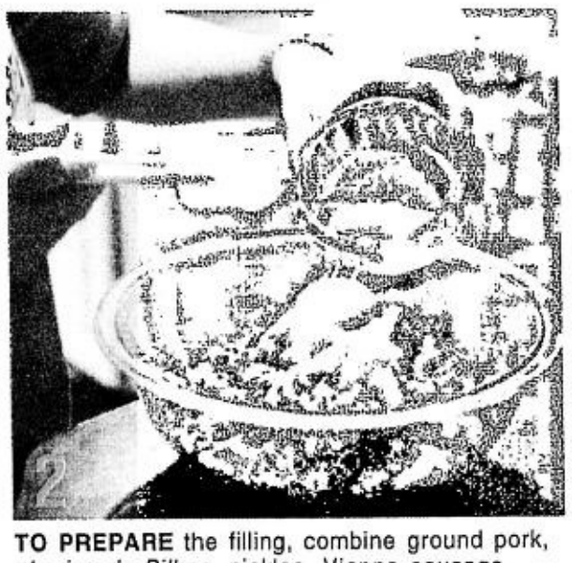
Most servings are good enough for an entire group of three to four people. The pizzadilla, which comes in two variants, is ideal for the hungry *barkada*. Ninja Turtle is a melange of fresh tomatoes, pepperoni and cheese baked in crisp thin crust. Popeye's pick combines sautéed spinach, smoked fish strips, *kesong puti* and tomatoes inside a thin crust. The menu also offers several sandwiches and pasta dishes.

"There's something for everybody here," says Alonzo, who hired a New York-trained chef to develop the dishes. "We also have wonderful desserts." And unique ones as well. La Diva Locca, for instance, is no Latin staple, but a whole pear poached in red wine and made spicy by an unlikely combination of cinnamon, peppercorn, star anise, laurel, honey and rosemary. Served with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, the dessert, with its symphony of contrasting flavors and spices, is anything but boring. Eve's Temptation is inspired by Tufahija, an Eastern European delight consisting of a poached apple, baked and filled with sweet cream and served with honey.

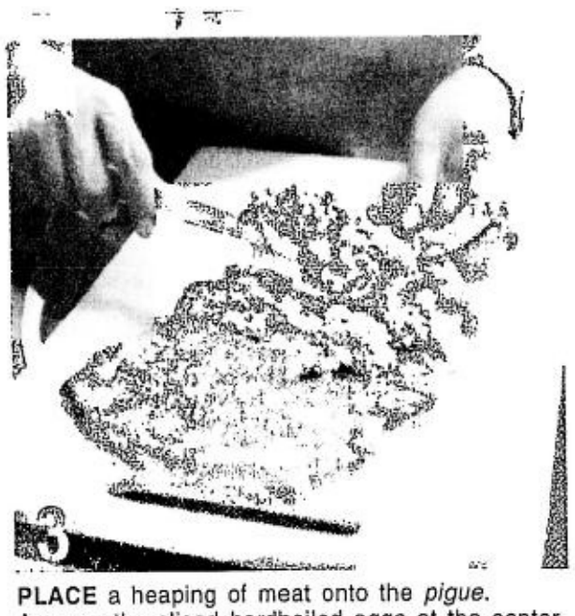
Komiks serves only Chilean wines and Lavazza coffee. House drinks also come with such whimsical or naughty names as Kawabangga, Bongga Ka, Alice Kamatis, Bugs Bunny Smoothie, Pick Me Up or Shake it Babe. The mischievous Kenkoy would have approved.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

SPREAD the pork *pigue* on a clean table and rub with salt and pepper. Then, slice *pigue* in half. Set aside.



TO PREPARE the filling, combine ground pork, *chorizo de Bilbao*, pickles, Vienna sausage, butter and two raw eggs in a bowl. Blend well. Season with salt and pepper.



PLACE a heaping of meat onto the *pigue*. Arrange the sliced hardboiled eggs at the center of the *pigue*.

ROLL meat tightly.

Bakeless pork roll

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

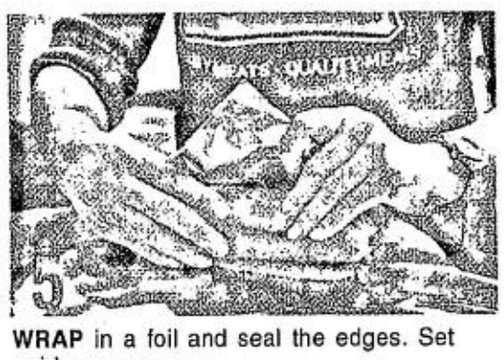
THERE'S no special method in preparing this all-occasion pork roll. In fact, food expert Helene Pontejos has concocted this recipe specifically for people who do not have ovens. The pork roll is cooked in broth that is flavored with herbs and spices, instead of baked and roasted.

The pork roll recipe is a cross between *embotido* and *morcon*. The preparation is also quite similar—the meat is stuffed with ground pork, sausage, *chorizo de Bilbao*, pickles and eggs and rolled to perfection. "People like something they can slice and present beautifully in a platter," says Pontejos, culinary services manager of San Miguel Food Group.

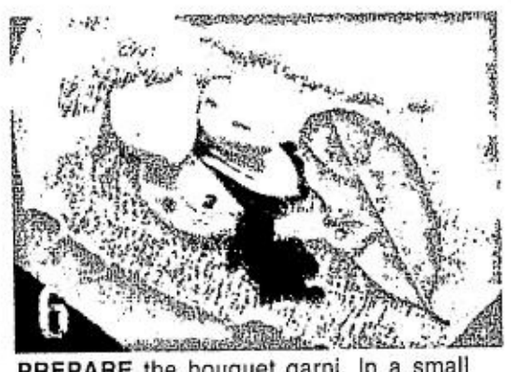
Cooking pork by different methods provide variety in taste. In this recipe, the broth enhances the natural flavor of the ingredients. And to heighten the taste of the broth, bouquet garni is added. Bouquet garni is actually a bunch of herbs either tied together or placed in a cheesecloth bag and used to flavor soups, stew and broth.

"The great bonus of cooking the pork in a broth is the nutritious stock created as meat and vegetables in the pan exude their flavors into the cooking liquid," says Pontejos. The addition of sherry or any red wine also perks up the flavor.

After the meat is cooked, the broth is used to flavor the gravy.



WRAP in a foil and seal the edges. Set aside.



PREPARE the bouquet garni. In a small piece of cheesecloth, put together bay leaf, garlic cloves and peppercorns. Tie to secure and set aside.

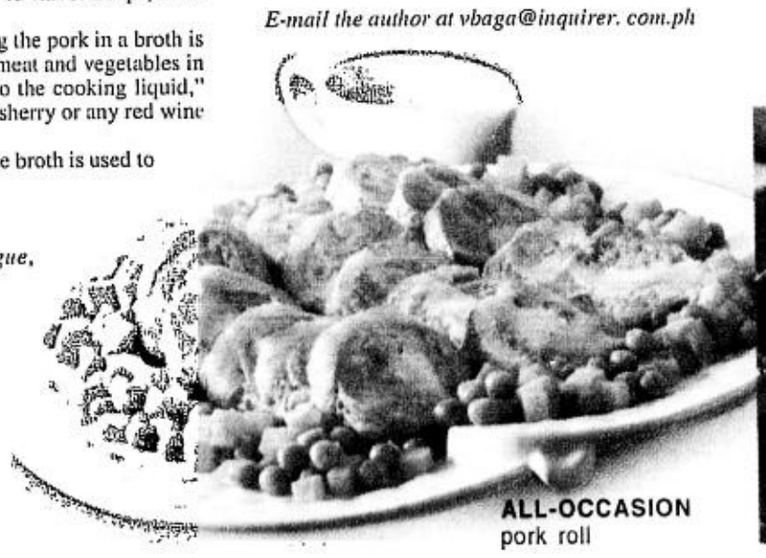
IN A POT, place water, chicken cube, tomatoes, onions and sherry. Add in the bouquet garni.

STEP BY STEP

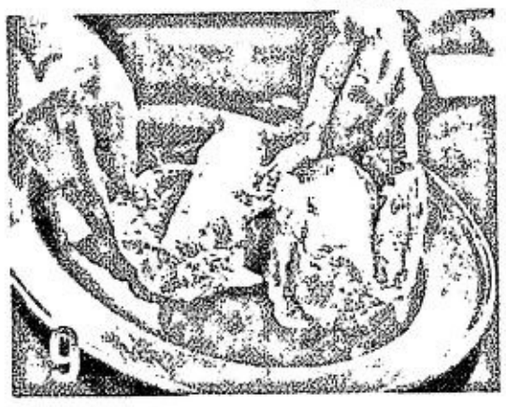
Ingredients:

1 kg Monterey pork *pigue*, sliced *morcon* style
1 tsp salt
½ tsp pepper
½ kg Monterey ground pork
½ c Purefoods *chorizo* de Bilbao, chopped
1 tbsp flour
4 pc whole pickles, chopped (or 1 c relish)
2 pc egg
2 pc Purefoods Vienna Sausage, chopped
1 tbsp Magnolia butter
1 tsp salt
½ tsp pepper
2 pc hard cooked eggs, quartered
1 pc chicken cube
6 to 8 c water
2 tbsp sherry
1¼ c tomatoes, sliced into chunks
1 pc onion, quartered
1 pc bay leaf
7 clove garlic, crushed
1 tbsp peppercorns
2 tbsp oil
¼ c + 2 tbsp Magnolia butter
¼ c flour

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

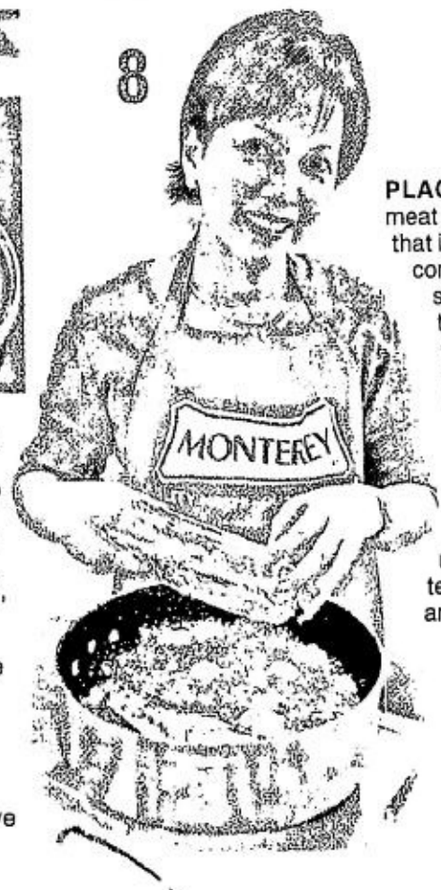


ALL-OCCASION pork roll



STRAIN the sauce and set aside 2 c of broth for the gravy. Unwrap and let the meat cool a bit.

BROWN the meat by frying it in 2 tbsp oil and 2 tbsp butter. Remove from heat and set aside. Meanwhile, to make the gravy, melt remaining butter in a saucepan, add the flour and the strained sauce. Season to taste and serve in a gravy boat. Slice the meat and serve in a platter.



PLACE wrapped meat and ensure that it is completely submerged in the broth. Cover and cook over high heat and allow mixture to boil. Turn down heat and cook, simmering until meat is tender (about an hour).

Culinary arts classes for January

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts, located at Bon Apetit, 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, announces its classes for January. The schedule is as follows:

Jan. 18—Gourmet Bagoong: Grilled Tiger Prawns with Caramelized Ginger, Tomato and Bagoong Jam, Binagoongang Baboy and Leek Risotto, Baked Adobo Paella with Bagoong Balayan, Grilled Tomato and Onion Salad, Fried Tilapia and Asian Vegetable Tempura with Burong Hipon, Steamed Kitang with Fresh Alamang and Garlic Saute, Grilled Eggplants, Stuffed Shrimp with Bagoong and Coconut Cream Sauce, Bagoong Fried Chicken with Pinoy Style Bagoong Rice and Sweet Cucumber Relish, Inihaw na Baboy with Shallot and Bagoong Compote and Sinangag sa Bagoong, Pork Barbecue in Bagoong Marinade with Garlic Rice and Fried Garlic and Bagoong Crisps.

Jan. 19—More Wasabi and Mustard Recipes: Pot Roast with Roasted Vegetables and Garlic Potatoes, Red Chili Crusted Cod with Macadamia Potato Salad and Mango Relish, Delicious Southern Fried Chicken and Rice Salad, Roast Pork with Figs and Shallot Compote, Marinated Red Snapper with Wasabi, Wasabi Marinated Angus Rib-Eye with Vegetable Tempura.

Jan. 21 and 23—Bistro Cooking: Two of the most delicious versions of the authentic French Onion Soup, Foie Gras with Onion and Apple Compote, French Steak and Fried Potato Salad, Beef with Foie Gras and Potato Galettes, Foie Gras and Herb Ravioli, Mussels with Red Pepper Butter, Smoked Salmon with Potato Garlic Sabayon, Seafood Crepes with Honey Sauce, Spinach and Shrimp Quiche, Asparagus and Parmesan Quiche, White Chicken with Asparagus Sauce.

Jan. 25—Risotto: Arugula Duck with Mango Risotto, Saffron Risotto with Grilled Shrimp, Shallot Roast Chicken with Wild Rice and Roasted Shallot Risotto, Lamb Shanks with Sweet Potato Risotto, Ox-Tail Stew with Caramelized Garlic Risotto.

Jan. 28 and 30—Pasta 101: Primavera, Pesto, Neopolitan, Alfredo Carbonara (two authentic versions), Puttanesca, Arrabiata, All'Amatriciana, Bolognese, Chicken Cacciatore, Chicken Parmigiana, Ragu.

Call 633-5162, 634-7484 local 214 or fax 928-9296.

Learn how to start a food business

START a business with marketable recipes that you can learn at the Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center.

The Pika-Pika course on Jan. 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., includes Pinalutong na Kangkong, Crispy Dilis, Ukoy, Sizzling Sisig, Pinaputok na Talaba, Chicken Feet and Kropeck.

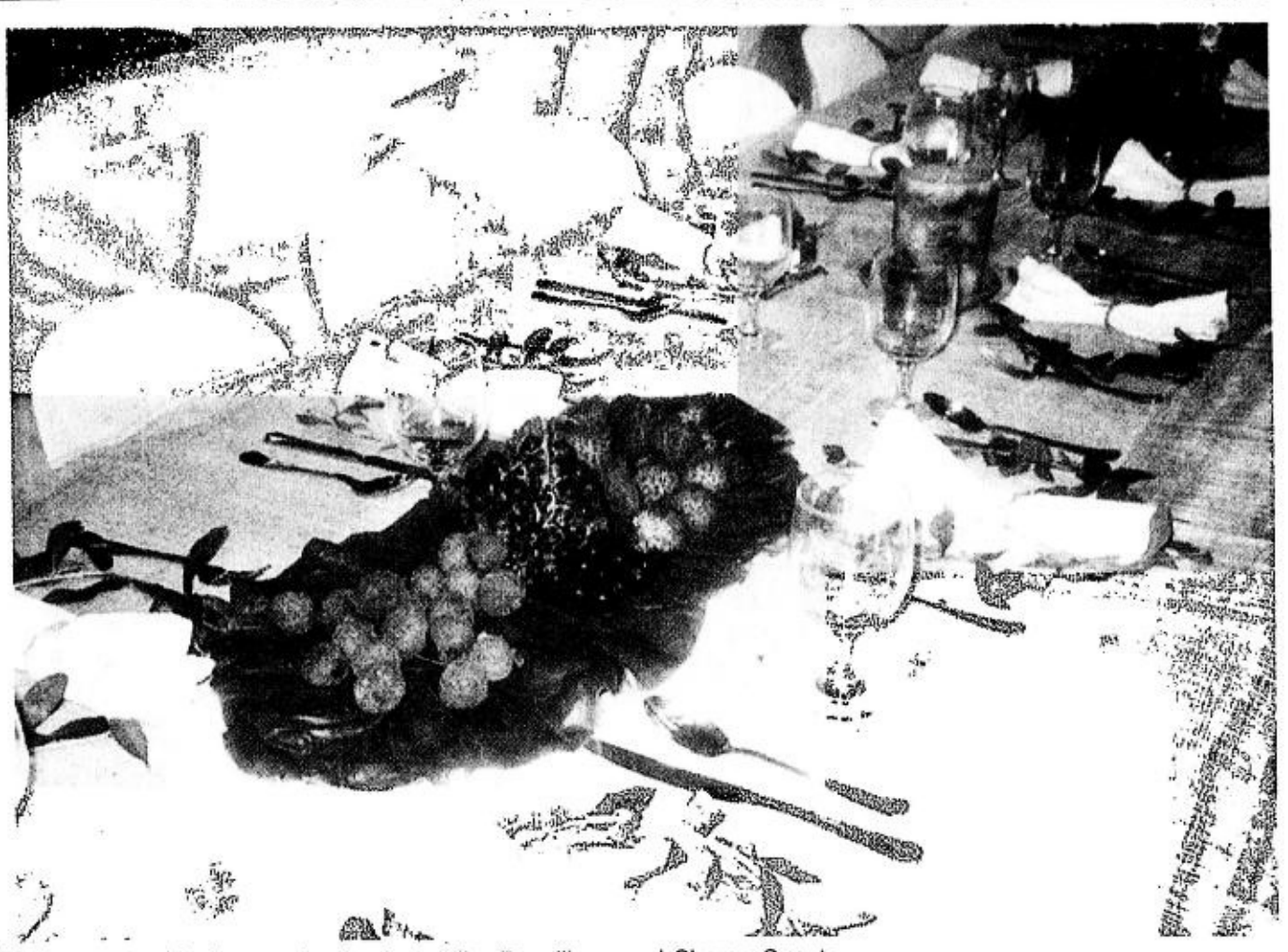
For those who want to hone their craft in waitering, there's Waitering Made Easy course on Jan. 19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Lectures on product knowledge, type of table service, sequence of serving, order taking, procedure on table setting and bussing out, napkin folding and skirting with hands-on will be held.

Also scheduled on Jan. 19 and 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., is Cake Decoration covering lecture-workshop on the fundamentals of cake decorating like coloring, designing, template, icing, basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching, and motif with free decorating tips.

Catering and Bartending Basics will be on Jan. 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., including lectures on portion control, costing, inventory, table layout and equipment sourcing with actual preparation of dishes like *morcon*, *galantina*, pork *asado*, soy chicken, roast pork, baked macaroni, all-meat *paella* and special *gulaman* dessert. For Bartending Basics, topics on product knowledge, bar terminology, wine classification, mixed drink preparation, standard drink recipes, different garnishes, dos and don'ts in beverage service will be covered.

An evening session on Restaurant Operations which will coincide with Bakery and Bakeshop Operations is scheduled on Jan. 24 and 25, 6-9:30 p.m.

Maya Kitchen is on the 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 892-1185/5011 local 108 or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.



CABALEN table for catering for Sen. Kiko Pangilinan and Sharon Cuneta

Creative catering

NAPKIN holders made of intricately woven string beans, table covers made of *sinamay* and banana leaves, centerpieces fashioned out of wooden *bangkitos* decked with wild flowers and fresh fruits. Every Cabalen catering setup is creative, articulating the client's preferred motif, whether traditional Filipino, Pinoy modern or Asian.

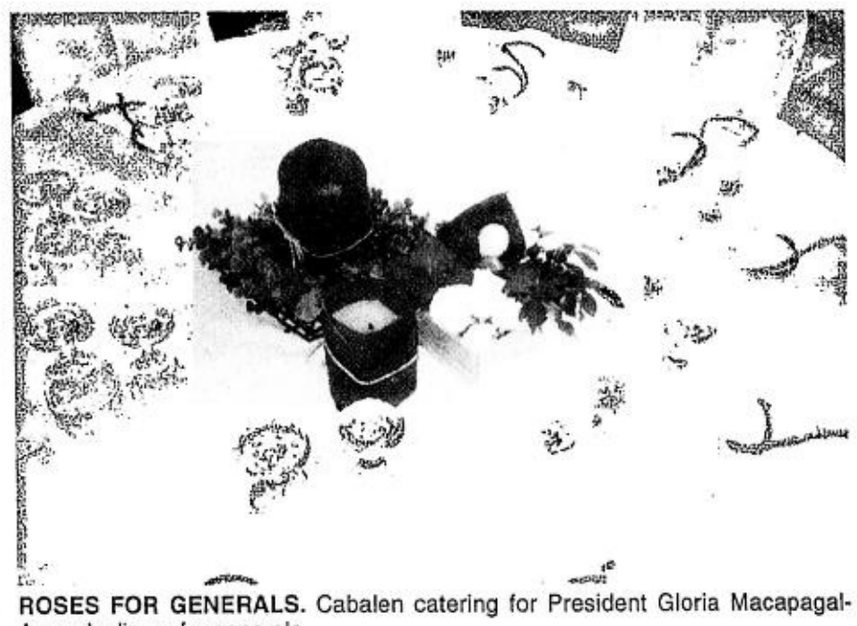
"Our catering services goes beyond the word," says Maritel Nievera, the restaurateur behind Cabalen. The menu selections are surprisingly varied, ranging from the authentically Capampangan to regional favorites, even bordering on international fusion cuisine. Most impressive, however, is the kind of service Cabalen provides.

Nievera explains that Cabalen treats everyone like a VIP. "Unlike other companies, there is no need to join memberships or clubs, or book so many catering functions first before one can enjoy privileges, or special price, or simply value-for-money. With us, anyone gets the personalized yet professional service at a package suited to the client's budget."

A Cabalen catering package doesn't require any minimum number of persons. Prices are negotiable, almost always adjusting to the client's budget, and location is never a problem.

"Cabalen believes that the basics are enough to make it worth our client's time and resources but it is the way we serve, the way we share that sense of Filipino hospitality that makes an affair truly memorable," says Nievera with pride.

Cabalen caters for debuts, weddings, office parties, kiddie parties and other occasions. Call 647-5088/4988 or e-mail cmci@broline.com.



ROSES FOR GENERALS. Cabalen catering for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's dinner for generals

GOTO King, the country's largest fast-food chain offering traditional Filipino *merienda* favorites, recently opened its Cagayan de Oro branch. The said outlet is located in Divisoria, the commercial center of Cagayan de Oro. Goto King president Teresa Dula-Laurel (second from left) presents the Goto King franchising manual to Goto King-CDO franchise owner John Tan (third from left) after the MOA signing. Also in photo are Goto King business development officer Deus de la Cruz (left) and Goto King-CDO outlet supervisor Beatriz Tan (right).

2nd edition of culinary arts dictionary now out

PRENTICE Hall recently published the updated and revised second edition of "Webster's New World Dictionary of Culinary Arts." A must-have reference for students of the culinary arts and hotel and restaurant management, chefs and food enthusiasts, the book contains over 25,000 authoritative yet concise entries covering food identification, preparation and cooking methods, nutrition, sanitation, tools and equipment, wine, beer and spirits, cigars, international foods, food chemistry, historical and cultural items, hospitality terms and prepared dishes.

The dictionary boasts of the accurate use of capitalization and accent marks; a simple alphabetical listing for all entries, including abbreviations; extensive cross-references; 285 line drawings; an easy-to-read typeface and format; plus phonetic pronunciation guides, tables of metric conversions, measurement equivalents, commonly used international terms, sugar cooking temperatures, oversized wine bottles.

The book is exclusively distributed by Anvil Publishing Inc. and is now in bookstores nationwide. Call 671-1899.

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Jan 22, 24, 26, 28 & 31. All classes begin at 2 pm at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, Ground Floor, Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. For reservations, please call 726-9232 or 726-1016. All sessions are for two hours.
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Marines to leave Sulu; pro-Nur cops defiant

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

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INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2002 ★ 56 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 41 ₱15

Experts find game show's 'strongest link'

"YOU do not know when to bank."

This is what actor Edu Manzano, host of the local version of the internationally syndicated "The Weakest Link," keeps telling

EXPERTS/ A9

1 ton of TNT seized; al-Qaida links eyed

POLICE yesterday seized a ton of explosives and arrested three Filipinos suspected of having links to the al-Qaida terror network after a tipoff from Singapore authorities.

Seventeen assault rifles were also confiscated from the group during a raid on their hideout in Gen. Santos City, police said.

"The arrests were the result of information

1 TON/ A16

US senator says RP next Afghanistan

New front in anti-terror war

WICHITA, Kansas—The Philippines could be the next Afghanistan, according to Sen. Sam Brownback, who serves on the US Senate foreign relations committee.

Brownback made the remark as he noted that Washington was scaling up US involvement in the Philippines and held it likely that more American troops would be sent there.

"It appears the Philippines is going to be the second, the next target, after Afghanistan on the war on terrorism," Brownback said during a stop in Wichita. "That Abu Sayyaf group is the target." The Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, is holding Kansas missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, together with Filipino nurse Deborah Yap.

Philippine officials earlier said 660 US soldiers, including 160 Army special forces, would comprise the American contingent in the upcoming RP-US military exercise.

Brownback said Washington was likely to send more troops and advisers to the Philippines.

"The Philippine military is not adequately trained or equipped to conduct an aggressive war on the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group," he said. "In some cases, the Abu Sayyaf is better equipped than the Philippine military."

Brownback said he ascertained the information from his conversations and was not making the statements as an emissary for the Bush administration.

The senator said the mission of the US forces was to subdue the Abu Sayyaf and secure the safe release of the Burnhams.

Although the American troops would only serve as advisers, they would fire back if fired upon, Brownback said.

"I don't know what an exercise is, but we are getting more involved in dealing with the terror-

US/ A17

DENNIS SABANGAN

RETURN to barracks: The PNP-Special Mobile Group, composed of ex-MNLF members integrated into the police force, wait for their ferry to return to their mother camp in Parang, Maguindanao, but Misuari diehards refuse to leave or surrender their firearms.

No 'policy rift,' says Palace

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN, NORMAN BORDADORA AND ROCKY NAZARENO

PRESIDENTIAL spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday no "policy rift" existed between Vice President Teofisto Guingona and the President, but Guingona, speaking with Department of Foreign Affairs reporters, was less than categorical.

When asked whether the unexpected presence of US combat troops in Basilan and Zamboanga would force him to resign as foreign secretary, a Cabinet post he also holds, Guingona replied: "I am suddenly not available for comment."

The pattern was repeated last night, after the National Security Council's executive committee met for the second time this week. Tiglao said Guingona did not raise his rumored threat to resign during the 90-minute meeting.

"There's only one tune," Tiglao said.

But Guingona himself refused to discuss the meeting with reporters, only saying that the discussions will be continued.

NO/ A16

Guingona rapped US for VFA violations

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

VICE President Teofisto Guingona may have ruffled American feathers as early as middle of last year, when he sent Malacañang a memorandum detailing US violations of the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Sources from both Malacañang and Camp Aguinaldo told the INQUIRER that the Visiting Forces Agreement Commission, chaired by Guingona, submitted the memorandum to President Macapagal-Arroyo last July.

The memorandum detailed VFA deviations, such as unilateral training operations by US forces in Clark Air Base, unilateral flights and instances of environmental destruction in Subic Bay.

Elmer Cato, erstwhile officer-in-charge of the VFAComm, con-

GUINGONA/ A17

They're still raring for Erap's return

BY RUBEN ALABASTRO
Reuters

AS LONG as she lives, says laundrywoman Vivencia Lozada, May Day last year will burn like a flame in her memory.

It was on that day when she, her husband and their three children braved police tear gas and joined hundreds of slumdwellers in an attack on Malacañang to demand the return to power of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Lozada says she will be back at the Palace gates in a planned protest march by the urban poor on Monday to mark the anniversary of Estrada's removal from office and renew their decades-old demand for jobs and a roof over their heads.

THEY'RE/ A16

Marines to leave Sulu; pro-Nur cops defiant

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL AND TJ BURGONIO
in Manila
NORALYN MUSTAFA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

NO ONE has been arrested yet in connection with the bloody clashes in Jolo on Tuesday and Wednesday that left at least 23 people dead, mostly soldiers. Not even the reported suspects, former members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), who have been integrated into the national police.

But police integrees loyal to their detained Moro leader Nur Misuari, former MNLF chair, have refused to leave Sulu.

They have refused to surrender their firearms and leave, unless Army Scout Rangers and Marines are also pulled out, a military official said on condition he not be named.

"If their demand is not met, they may return to the hills," the official said.

All the government could do was to order the Marines and soldiers to remain in their barracks and to form a team to investigate the clashes.

The Marines, who clashed with the police integrees, will be pulled out from Jolo to help ease tension in the capital town of Sulu, a military official yesterday said.

They will rejoin a Marine contingent in Luuk town, also in Sulu.

Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff, said the 2nd Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT) could be redeployed to Palawan.

But a replacement for the 2nd MBLT will have to be found before the unit can be pulled out from Sulu.

The 17th Scout Ranger Company will also be transferred from Jolo. A unit from the nearby Basilan Island will replace the company, Col. Romeo Tolentino, commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade, told reporters in Zamboanga

"This is the immediate solution we see in order to ease the tension," Tolentino told the INQUIRER.

The 400-strong special mobile

MARINES/ A9

CHARM offensive by President Macapagal on Thursday includes visiting Lupang Pangako, Payatas, Quezon City, and doing an Erap though she claims she had been doing so even when she was still a senator.

EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA talks with former Edsa allies

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA, JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND CARLITO PABLO

LEADERS of militant groups that helped put President Macapagal-Arroyo in power got two commitments in a dialogue with her yesterday in Malacañang: the resumption of formal peace talks with communist rebels and the release of 36 political prisoners before Sunday.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, one of the militant leaders who attended the three-hour breakfast meeting, said it was "very cordial" and the host was in a good mood, but that the issues that separated them remained unresolved.

For example, he said, they were unconvinced by the President's explanation that the 600 or more US troops in Mindanao were here only for "joint military exercises" and would not engage in combat operations.

GMA/ A16

CBCP urges people to give Gloria a chance

Bishops blame 'unrealistic' expectations, 'inane behavior' of senators

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM, CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday said the people's "unrealistic" expectations and the "inane behavior" of some senators were among the factors pulling down the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a two-page statement, Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the influential organization, urged the people to give the administration a chance to work. Earlier, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin observed that the government was not being given the opportunity to succeed.

"The Church will be critical in its support, but it will also be patient because it knows that the road

CBCP/ A16

Second FRONT PAGE

Gunmen seize Tarlac trader

BY RUSSELL ARADOR
PDI Central Luzon Desk
AND YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TARLAC CITY—A Chinese-Filipino businessman was abducted on the national highway in Barangay Tibag here Wednesday evening by at least four heavily armed men, police said.

Police identified the victim as Ricky Morales Sy who, with his wife, was in their Cadillac traveling on the Tibag Road when a white Mitsubishi Lancer overtook them and blocked their path.

Four men armed with Uzis and .45-cal pistols dragged Sy out of his car and forced him into their vehicle. One report said Sy's wife was left in the couple's car, while another said she was taken along but released later.

Before the suspects overtook Sy's car, they reportedly fired two shots in the air, police said.

The abduction was reported to police by an unidentified caller using a two-way radio.

Asked if a kidnap-for-ransom syndicate was behind the abduction, Supt. Mario San Diego, Tarlac police director, said, "Anything is possible at this time."

Sy's friends said the businessman was recuperating from a stroke and was partially paralyzed. "This might aggravate his already frail condition," they said.

Sy's family owns the US Lumber and Hardware Store along F. Tañedo Street here.

Another report said Sy owned a garment factory.

A police official who requested anonymity said that so far, Sy's family has not received a ransom demand.

As this developed, the fate of another Chinese-Filipino kidnap victim, Chan Ching Luy, remained uncertain.

Chan has not been released even after his family paid an undetermined amount in ransom to his abductors, reliable sources said.

Chan, originally from Kowloon, was seized at his home in Rosario, Batangas, on Jan. 7.

In Cotabato City, nothing has been heard of Dr. Rosemarie Agustin, who was abducted Tuesday night by five suspected members of the Pentagon gang.

Doctor-colleagues of Agustin in Cotabato City quickly mounted a protest against her abduction by closing their clinics and treating only emergency cases.

They have urged their colleagues nationwide to protest the abduction as well.

Dr. Conrado Aguila, spokesperson of the Cotabato City Medical Society (CCMS), urged doctors in Cotabato province to also shut their clinics.

The INQUIRER learned that doctors in Midsayap town have refused to treat non-emergency cases.

Aguila said his group has asked the Philippine Medical Association in Manila to join their cause by staging a "nationwide mass protest against kidnapping and other forms of violence."

"We hope to make the protest nationwide and drum up support against kidnappings," Aguila said.

Agustin, 52, was kidnapped Tuesday night in front of her home here by five armed men believed to be Pentagon gang members.

Pursuing lawmen killed three of the kidnappers while a fourth was arrested.

The military has admitted it was having a hard time tracking down Agustin's kidnappers.

"The terrain is very uncooperative, but we are moving slowly and surely," Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division said.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front said it was also moving to secure the freedom of Agustin.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said the move was part of the rebel group's confidence building measures in relation with its peace negotiations with the government. *With TJ Burgonio; Charlie S. Señase and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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NEWSBRIEFS

'Bantay Buko' to sue Danding

FARMERS' groups opposed to any compromise on the disputed coconut levy funds in San Miguel Corp. have launched a campaign to oppose the agreement entered into by the government and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. on the management of SMC.

Dubbed "Bantay Buko," the coalition led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas vowed to block the deal in which Cojuangco shall continue as SMC chair while the government will install five new board members and handle matters like compensation and bidding.

Rafael Mariano, KMP chair, said Bantay Buko will file criminal charges against Cojuangco for allegedly appropriating for himself the levy collected from coconut farmers during the Marcos regime now estimated to be worth P130 billion. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

3 pro-AFP bills approved

THE HOUSE committee on national defense approved Wednesday three measures designed to improve the performance of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The bills would align the wages of military personnel with that of policemen and teachers, increase the number of generals and flag officers in the AFP, and rationalize the retirement policy for military personnel.

House defense committee chair Prospero Pichay said the approved bills will be referred to the House appropriations committee for finalization.

Euro deadline nears

FILIPINOS holding currencies of the 12 individual countries that make up the European Union have only until Jan. 25 to convert their money to pesos.

After that, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration chief Rosalinda Baldoz said, they would have to send their money back to the country of origin for conversion to the euro, the new denomination of the European Union.

The European Union has set a deadline of Jan. 27 for the conversion of individual currencies to the euro.

The United Kingdom and Germany are among the top 10 sources of remittances from overseas Filipino workers. OFWs sent home nearly $1.3 billion from the two countries in the last five years. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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Gun permits from gun club illegal

POLICE officials have asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to stop the alleged racket of a non-government organization, which issues gun licenses to its members in the name of the Philippine National Police and charges fees.

Chief Supt. Doroteo Reyes, director of the PNP legal service, charged that the Citizens Community Defense Group (CCDG) has been issuing "mission orders" to its gun-owning members in the name of the PNP.

The mission orders, he said, authorize the bearer to carry a firearm outside of his or her home, which is a violation of Presidential Decree 1866, the law prohibiting possession of firearms by unauthorized persons.

Citing his group's investigation on the matter, Reyes said Rodrigo and James Villanueva of the CCDG have been issuing the mission orders to their members for a fee of P2,500.

"The SEC should issue a cease and desist order against the self-styled NGO. The activities of the NGO are a clear and serious misrepresentation of the PNP," he said in a statement.

Reyes argued that the SEC itself bans any firm from affixing the word "national" to its name and hence, should ban the CCDG from using the name of the PNP in its illicit business.

Police were now investigating the activities of the CCDG.

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Erap's SMC directors snub Senate hearing

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

THE FIVE appointees of former President Joseph Estrada to the San Miguel Corp. board snubbed yesterday's Senate investigation into the coconut levy fund issue and the controversial SMC-Kirin deal.

As this developed, SMC, in a statement that was supposed to be read at the Senate hearing, cited positive gains for the company should the deal with Japan's Kirin Brewery Ltd. push through.

The Senate committees on accountability of public officers (blue ribbon) and agriculture and food were forced to suspend their joint hearing after the Estrada nominees to the SMC board failed to show up.

They were Raul de Guzman, Estrada's brother-in-law, Hermogenes Tantoco, Espiridion Laxa, Benjamin Paulino and Francisco Jardeleza. They were appointed by Estrada as nominees of the Presidential Commission on Good Government to the SMC board representing the sequestered shares of coconut farmers.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, and Senate President Pro Tempore Manny Villar, chair of the committee on agriculture and food, reset the hearing to Jan. 22 at 1 p.m.

Asked if the five directors would be cited for contempt if they fail to appear on that date, Arroyo said the two committees would discuss it then.

Arroyo said the five will be asked about their role in SMC as PCGG nominees and their knowledge of the Kirin deal.

"Well, they are still attending SMC (board) meetings but they are not reporting to the PCGG. They're not reporting to anyone," Arroyo said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has named the replacements of the five on the SMC board but the Estrada appointees have challenged this before the Supreme Court.

RAM, Bigkis sign joint declaration for peace, unity

SPEARHEAD of the civilian-backed military uprising that kicked out Ferdinand Marcos and several coup attempts against Corazon Aquino, the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan is now an advocate of peace, unity, progress and transformation.

With this new role in the mainstream, RAM has formed an alliance with leading non-government organization Bigkis Pinoy for a joint declaration for Unity, Peace and National Renewal, according to the leaders of the two groups.

Signing the declaration will be retired Commodore Domingo Calajate, chair of RAM's executive committee, and Edward King, executive director of Bigkis Pinoy.

The joint declaration will be signed at 4 p.m. tomorrow at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City as their contribution to the first anniversary celebration of Edsa II, which installed President Macapagal-Arroyo.

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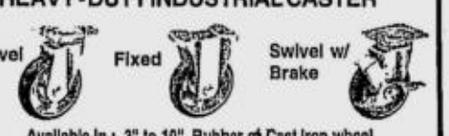

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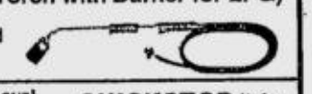

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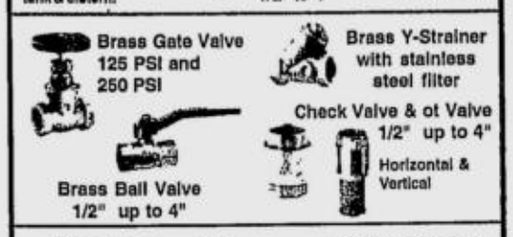

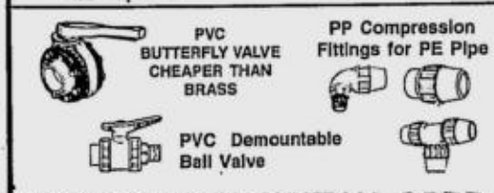

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Not guilty, Abus plead

AMID fears of violence, yesterday's arraignment of 75 suspected Abu Sayyaf members in connection with the abduction of 43 people in Basilan two years ago was generally peaceful. Twelve of the suspects pleaded not guilty.

No violence erupted during the arraignment at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig due to the tight guarding of around 100 police officers carrying high-powered firearms.

The Metro Manila police force beefed up security at the camp fearing Abu Sayyaf followers might sabotage the proceedings, which included the pre-trial of Hector Janjalani, youngest brother of Abu Sayyaf chief Khadaffy Janjalani.

The younger Janjalani, who was arrested in Manila in December 2000, is facing kidnapping charges before a regional trial court in Pasig City.

Of the 75 suspected members of the extremist rebel group, only 12 were arraigned, pleading not guilty of participating in the siege of an Army outpost and four schools in Tumahubong town in Basilan on March 20, 2000.

Badoy rebuts defense bid to yank him out of Erap trial

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

IN HIS own defense before the Supreme Court, Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy yesterday answered point for point the administrative complaint Joseph Estrada's lawyers had brought against him in October.

The complaint, which seeks Badoy's removal from the plunder case against Estrada, accused the magistrate of misconduct, bias and serious dereliction of duty. It was one of the grounds on which the SC based its order for Badoy to go on an indefinite leave in December last year.

The complaint accused Badoy, for example, of having prejudiced Estrada's rights as an accused when he allegedly forced the defense lawyers to sign a pre-trial order despite the lawyers' insistence they be given more time to go over the voluminous trial documents.

On this Badoy told the SC: "If the court refused the accused's request for more time, it was because it considered the request to be merely dilatory."

Badoy also defended his expulsion from court of Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag during a pre-trial hearing last year, when Saguisag figured in a heated argument with another Third Division justice, Teresita Leonardo de Castro.

He recalled: "All of a sudden, I heard the bang of the gavel and saw Justice De Castro trying to stop Saguisag from speaking, to no avail. (I) then took the gavel and ordered Saguisag to stop speaking. I banged the gavel a number of times but he simply ignored me, (so) I ordered the sheriff to take him out of the courtroom."

Badoy also justified going on with the trial's opening day on Oct. 1, despite the absence of the nine lawyers of Estrada, who attended in casual clothes and slippers.

He said the court proceeded with the trial because it was not satisfied with the excuses given by the defense lawyers for not attending.

Except for lawyer Jose Flaminiano, the members of the defense team "cited only generalities such as 'not available until November,'" as their excuses, Badoy said.

With Philip C. Tubeza

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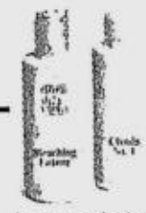

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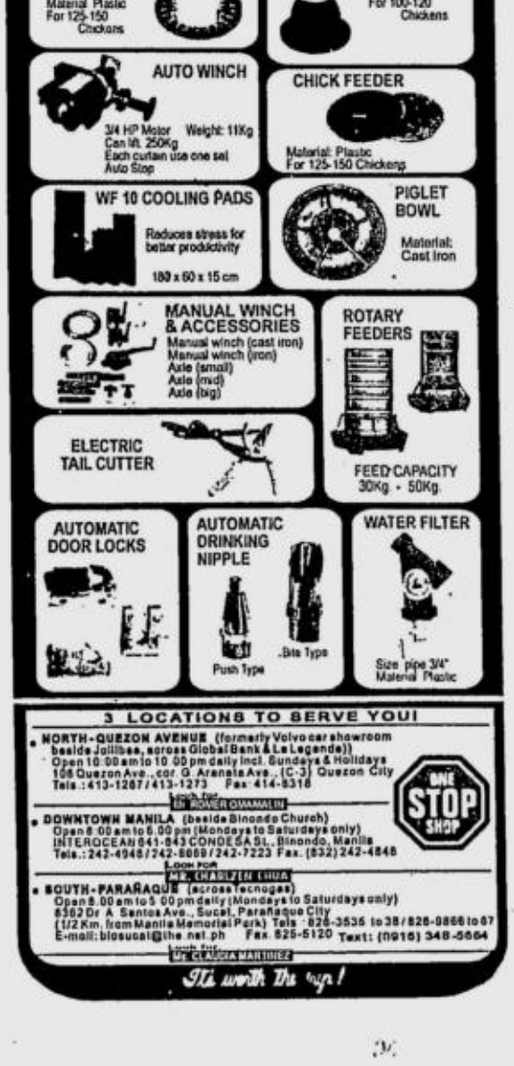

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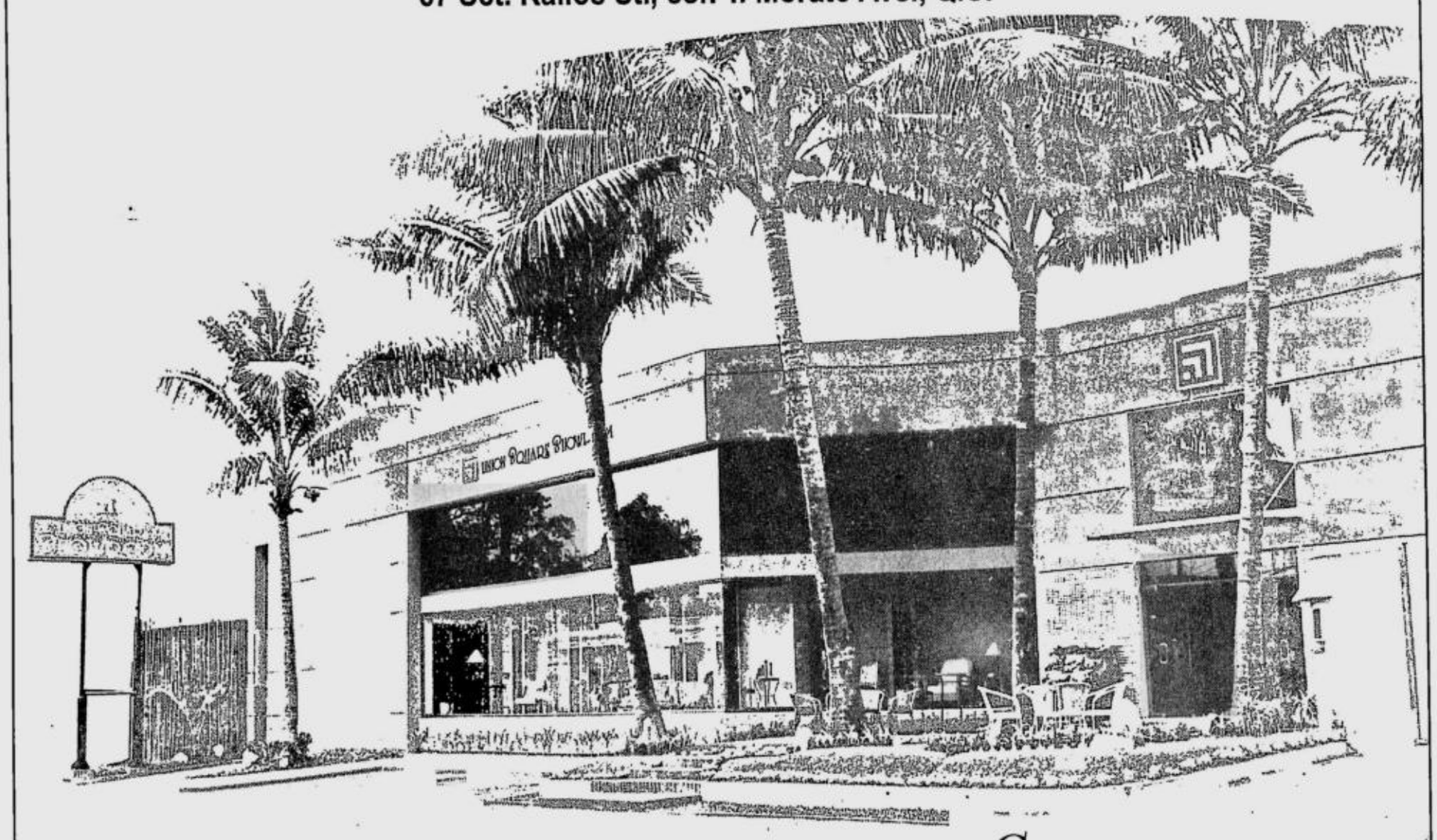

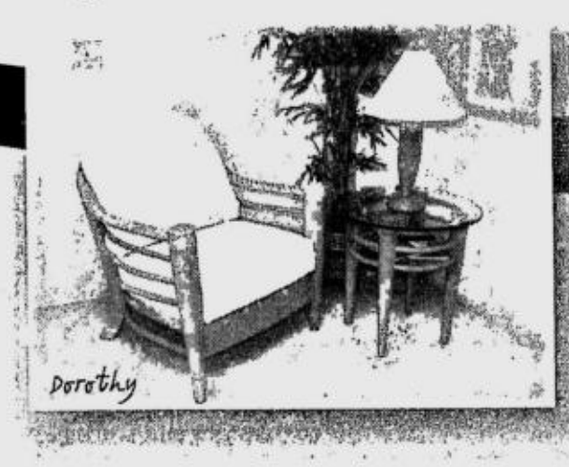

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Bloody 'mistake'

EDITORIAL

IT remains unclear who initiated the gun battle that left 21 people dead in Jolo, Sulu last Tuesday. The police and the military seem to be pointing at each other, with Chief Supt. Crescencio Maralit, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, charging that Marine soldiers started the mayhem by firing into a crowd of ralliers protesting the detention of the renegade former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Nur Misuari. Jolo Mayor Suod Tan, on the other hand, said the trouble started when the crowd noticed two soldiers in civilian clothes and with hand grenades tucked in their belts, fueling suspicion that they were there to sabotage the rally. Some ralliers started beating up the soldiers, but a jeepload of Marines arrived and fired into the air in an attempt to rescue their colleagues. That was when policemen, mostly integrees from the Moro National Liberation Front, began firing at them, and the battle was joined. When the firing stopped, 10 Marines lay dead, together with five policemen and six civilians.

"What happened was a case of mistaken identity," said Supt. Ahiron Adjirim, the Sulu police director. A "misencounter" was how Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza called it. Maybe. But how could policemen in a small town where everyone knows everybody else make such a bloody mistake?

If there is any mistake that is clear at this point, it was sending those two soldiers to the rally. That rally was on its second day, and nothing untoward happened on the first day. There were policemen monitoring the rally, which is their responsibility more than the military's. What business did those two soldiers have being there?

Their commander or whoever assigned them that duty should have known that the mere presence of soldiers in such an emotionally charged mass protest action was an insolent and provocative act. Maybe they should have asked Sen. Robert Jaworski first. A year ago when it was clear that Joseph Estrada would be toppled from the presidency after the military and the police withdrew their support, Jaworski waded into the crowd massed at the Edsa Shrine, hoping perhaps to be hailed like the earlier defectors, among them Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado. He almost got beaten up. Sending those Marines to that pro-Misuari rally was just as reckless and stupid.

Even sillier—and deadlier—was the reaction of the policemen securing the rally. It is difficult to imagine 10 Marines firing at the crowd and leaving only six ralliers dead, as the PNP would like the people to believe. Apparently at the first sign of trouble, if indeed the Marines started it, the policemen chose to engage the soldiers in a gun battle.

This leads to the larger question that government policymakers must confront sooner or later: the wisdom of integrating former rebels into the military and the police. It is becoming clear that many members of the so-called Special Mobile Group, composed of some 400 former MNLF rebels, are more loyal to Misuari than to the flag or to the country. A few months' training and an oath of loyalty are not enough to make them forget many years of war and enmity. Rebels who lay down their arms ought not to be kept in the profession of arms. Those who are part of a peace process should be taught more peaceful pursuits than peacekeeping.

Ambiguous policy

FOREIGN COMMENT

PAKISTAN and India's leaders shook hands before the start of the subcontinent summit. But this diplomatic handshake cannot hide the impasse the two neighbors have reached over Kashmir.

Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf has gone to great lengths to reduce the tension by suppressing Islamic movements implicated in terrorist acts in Kashmir.

Despite these efforts it is difficult for Musharraf to extinguish the lit fuse of fundamentalism.

Worried about the revived tension, the United States attempted to mediate between the two parties, and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, transformed into an American diplomatic messenger, tried to renew dialogue. But the ambiguity of Washington's policy is obvious: George W. Bush's war on terrorism seems to stop as soon as it hampers his interests.

In need of Pakistan and its army to track Osama bin Laden and the remaining Taliban, the White House turned a deaf ear to Indian demands for help in its fight against Islamist terrorism in Kashmir.

Le Monde (Paris)

Dayrit, Roco: Teach our children not to eat junk food

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I READ recently that the rate of obesity (or being overweight) in the Philippines is rising. There seems to be a paradox here as the incidence of poverty, when people don't have enough to eat, is also rising. At a health forum last Tuesday, it was also observed that the incidence of hypertension (high blood pressure) and diabetes, the companion diseases of obesity, is also increasing. What could be causing these?

The culprit seems to be the rise in the number of fast-food outlets selling hamburgers, French fries, doughnuts and other fat-rich food. Coffee houses that also sell all sorts of pastries are also becoming popular. Most of these food have less nutrition and more empty calories. A television show also reported the growing popularity of instant noodles because they are cheap and easy to cook. Noodles are nothing but starch, fat, salt and flavoring. Nutrients are usually provided by the meat and vegetables the noodles are cooked with. But the "instant" version has very little of these ingredients. What it has plenty of are empty calories. These are what make Filipinos overweight and susceptible to hypertension and diabetes.

But the more alarming fact is that these junk food—and that includes the salty snacks in plastic or foil wrappers—are very popular with young people. They are learning to eat the wrong way and acquiring a taste for unhealthy food at an early age. They will take these unhealthy habits to adulthood. A "chubby" child may look cute, but as he grows up obese, all that extra fat he is carrying puts a strain on his body and all its organs. And once a person gains weight, it is very hard to get rid of it—as many failed dieters and slimmers will tell you.

This should alarm the Department of Health and the Department of Education and they should launch a campaign to educate not only the schoolchildren but also their parents and their teachers on what is healthy and unhealthy food.

Filipinos used to eat healthy food in the old days, said the doctors at the health forum, when they ate unpolished rice, brown sugar, fish and vegetables. When the white Americans came and popularized anything that is white—white rice, white sugar—and meat and gravy, we forgot that brown, the color of our skin, is not only beautiful but also healthy. The second wave of American colonialism brought the hamburger, French fries, doughnuts, pastries, as well as other junk food.

The hamburger, by the way, was popularized and is cheap because it was intended to make use of the undesirable cuts of beef and fat that would otherwise be thrown away. The potatoes are fried in beef fat. Doughnuts are nothing but starch, sugar and fat. And that is what the American fast-food chains have been feeding us.

Sometime ago, a medical study was released that showed an increase in the incidence of heart disease among Japanese who migrated to the United States. Japan has one of the lowest rates of heart disease in the world, but Japanese who migrated to the United States soon had the same high rate of heart disease as the Americans. Why?

Because when they were in their home country, the Japanese had a healthy diet of whole grains (rice), vegetables and fish. But when they moved to America, they acquired the American taste for hamburgers, French fries and sweet things. Not surprisingly, obesity, hypertension and diabetes are also increasing in the United States.

The expensive beef imported from America, by the way, is more unhealthy than our own beef. Ours is range beef, cattle that ranged the pastures and so had plenty of exercise and less fat. American cattle, on the other hand, are fattened on feed lots where they do nothing but eat—mostly corn that fattens them—and are moved little. The fat that they store is the profit of the merchants when they are sold to the butchers. The more fat the better, the more profit.

The Angus and Kobe beef that steak eaters pay so much money for are delicious and so tender because of the marbled fat in the tissues. It is the fat that makes food delicious but it is also what makes it unhealthy.

People shy away from pork because the fat is clearly visible. They prefer beef where they don't see the fat. But the latter is more unhealthy. You can cut away the pork fat and eat only the meat, but you can't cut off most of the fat in beef because it is hidden in the tissues, what is called "marbled fat," tucked away among the layers of tissues. That marbled fat is what makes the Angus and Kobe beef so delicious. But eat them at your own risk.

People refrained from eating steak during the scare over the mad cow disease, which led to the collapse of a number of steakhouses. The danger from mad cow disease, however, is very much less than the danger from marbled fat.

And the danger from hamburgers, French fries and other junk food are even more so because you don't see the fat that you are ingesting, the same fat that will give you health problems later on.

The effective antidote to the epidemic of hypertension and diabetes is a healthy diet. Eat the right food and you'll be okay. Which is not hard to do if you know what are the right and wrong food. But most Filipinos, young and old, don't know them. And there the DOH and DepEd are failing miserably in educating our people.

Reclaiming Edsa

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T know why we think only the poor are given to believing in myths, such as the one purveyed by "Edsa III." The myth, namely, that Erap is the savior of the poor who was ousted by a conspiracy of the rich. That is obviously a distortion of reality. But we have our myths too, which are equally distortions of reality. Chief of them is that Edsa II is the handiwork of a few people, who are the same people who led Edsa I. Who are Corazon Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Fidel Ramos and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

That is how they have made it out to be, and over time, we have tacitly accepted that version of history by refusing to challenge it.

In fact, more than Edsa I, Edsa II was the more spontaneous explosion. It had no one leader, or one group of leaders. It was the purer expression of people power in that it was the people themselves, galvanized by the power of an idea more than the charisma of any leader, driven to act by a sense of outrage rather than by the exhortations of any leader, who directly authored it. Aquino and Cardinal Sin did help to make it possible—they were among those who protested Erap's abuses, chief of them his efforts to muzzle the press, way back in 1999—but they were not solely, or even mainly, responsible for it. Ramos and Ms Macapagal certainly were not so.

Looking back, if one were to mark the beginning of the rewriting of the story, it would be the very night of the first rally, Jan. 16, Tuesday.

The immediate event that drove people back to the streets was the refusal of the 11 pro-Erap senators to open the second envelope. An event that had drama written all over it, the good guys weeping over the death of decency and the bad guys whooping it up, Sen. Tessie Oreta in particular. But that image itself became powerful only because of a morality play that had been playing out to the public for a couple of months, one that paraded heroes and villains. The impeachment trial was more widely and passionately watched than any Mexican *telenovela*, and which made the weighty matters of state truly a matter of public interest.

That was what drove the people—the jeepney drivers as much as the businessmen, the *labandera* as much as the *gloria*, the unshod and shirtless as much as the chic and cellphoned—to the streets. Not Aquino or Sin or Ramos or Ms Macapagal—indeed, in spite of Ms Macapagal, in many cases. It was people power in every sense of the word. It sprang from the people, it gathered the people, it gave voice to the people's desire to end an iniquity. But it was at that very instant when history was being made that the rewriting of history began.

What did the trick was Aquino's and Sin's call for the people, who were already out in the streets protesting the iniquity in various parts of Metro Manila—and elsewhere around the country—to gather at Edsa. I was in the Roces-Timog circle at that time, where one of the lightning rallies was taking place, and remember wondering, "Why Edsa?" I thought the spread-out rallies were the perfect expression of the new People Power, spontaneous, decentralized, various streams feeding into a sea. Of course I realized that bringing the various groups to one place increased its force. But never one to underestimate the power of symbols in this country, I also thought the choice of Edsa as that place resonated with all sorts of meaning. The Edsa Shrine is Aquino and Sin—until an angry mob would come to challenge that equation three months later. Bringing the rallies to Edsa meant bringing the fight against Erap under them, or to the groups they represented.

The next few days made that plain. I leave the scholars to look more closely at the "discourse," or message, or storyline that unfolded during those days. Suffice it to say here that those nights of vigil did not just erode Erap's legitimacy, they also made faceless the people who toiled in the night to topple him: the activists, the NGOs, the students, the unions, the media practitioners who refused to be cowed, or bought. Literally so: they disappeared from the stage that now played host to celebrities, politicians and overnight Erap scourges. Amid the drone of prayer and pious voices.

Ms Macapagal would bring that story to a climax with her inauguration speech, where she profusely thanked the military and police officials who flocked to Edsa at the eleventh hour, forgetting the men and women who bore rain and sun and—most oppressive of all—the scorn of a world that adored Erap or feared him, to protest his iniquity before everybody else was there.

Weeks later, we would be shocked to find an international press less than ecstatic about what we had done. "Mob rule," decreed one magazine writer. "Rich people's power" proclaimed the cover of another magazine. "Whimsical," "arbitrary," "a danger to constitutional processes," cried several newspapers. All of which swallowed the premise that what had happened showed the power of the elite more than the power of the people.

The new administration, or its main beneficiaries—who were Aquino, Sin, Ramos and Ms Macapagal, the last two in particular, the second becoming President and the first filling the government bureaucracy with his protégés—would say that was the handiwork of the Erap camp. It was Erap and his supporters, they said, who were spreading the rumor that Erap was beloved by the poor and was gotten rid of by the rich. In fact, the new administration, or its main beneficiaries, did not have to look very far for the authors of that rumor. They were the ones who were circulating it. They were the ones who wrote that script at Edsa, on those hot days and cold nights. They were the ones who pitted Edsa against Payatas. They were the ones who wrote the story about the rich winning a grand victory over the poor. The foreign press merely bought their press.

The problem has never been how Edsa may reclaim the people. It has always been how the people may reclaim Edsa.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Is the issue sovereignty or security?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE PARTICIPATION of about 600 American troops in joint military exercises with Philippine forces in Mindanao constitutes the largest deployment of US forces in the US-led war on terrorism after Afghanistan. The deployment makes the Philippines the new theater of the war targeting the al-Qaida terrorist network following the overthrow last December of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which gave sanctuary to Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida.

The form assumed by the US deployment in the Philippines is less explicit than in Afghanistan where US bombings pulverized the Taliban military strongholds, paving the way for the Northern Alliance military offensive that drove out the Taliban from power and sent Bin Laden on the run. In the Philippines, the United States is inserting its military presence through the mechanism of the joint exercise called "Balikatan," authorized by the Visiting Forces Agreement. The purpose, however, of the exercises is to train Filipino troops to fight effectively terrorist organizations linked to the al-Qaida—in our case the Abu Sayyaf—with sophisticated US military equipment and the expertise of its troops.

The exercises, which envisage the presence of US troops in combat areas in Mindanao, are set against the background of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's policy supporting the US military campaign against terrorists, and opening the Philippines to longer and wider US military presence than is contemplated by the VFA. The joint exercises are planned to last between six months and a year, and represent the biggest concentration of US forces on Philippine soil since the withdrawal of US military bases here in 1992.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, the texture of Philippine-US military cooperation have drastically altered, stretching the limits of the VFA and even the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951. These agreements form the framework in which cooperation would be carried out for the mutual security of the Philippines and the United States.

The large and long-term deployment of US forces within the framework of joint military exercises have rekindled sensitive nationalist and constitutional issues involving Philippine sovereignty. These issues are acquiring a highly emotional content. The purpose of this article is to provide a factual perspective to the debate over the joint exercises before it is muddled by emotionalism.

The issues include: Do the exercises constitute the return of permanent basing of US forces, in violation of the constitutional ban? Are the US forces going to engage in combat missions together with the Philippine forces against the Abu Sayyaf? More basically, is their deployment an infringement of national sovereignty or does it enhance Philippine national security and the capability of our armed forces to fight terrorist forces and other rebellions? The last mentioned issue has something to do with striking a balance between sovereignty and security.

This article is not prepared to make judgments on these issues at this stage and merely crystallizes and defines the issues.

First, I wish to point out that these military exercises are different from those in the past and their function and scope were not foreshadowed by the VFA signed in 1998. The joint exercises contemplated a duration of a few weeks—not six months to a year. The reason for the short duration is that the pre-Sept. 11 exercises were planned on hypothetical situations. "Balikatan" brings the exercises into the heart of the combat zone against the Abu Sayyaf. This is one reason why "Balikatan" cannot be put in a time frame and seems open-ended. The war against the Abu Sayyaf is not hypothetical, and Mindanao is an actual war zone.

Since the exercises are intended to upgrade the fighting skills and use of weapons of Filipino forces, and are also tied to the policy objective of crushing the Abu Sayyaf as part of the al-Qaida network (as well as rescuing the American couple held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf), first, although Filipino and US officials have asserted that the US troops will not be deployed in combat missions, they may accompany Filipino troops in combat zones and, that if US troops are fired upon, they can react in self defense—meaning, shoot the enemy. With this possibility, the thin line between being advisers and engagement as combat troops can easily disappear.

Six months to one year is a long time for military exercises, and deployment of forces for such duration mocks the word "exercises" and colors them as actual military combat operations. There is a big risk. If in six months or one year the Abu Sayyaf is not crushed, such a failure is likely to reflect on the ability of both Filipino and US forces to destroy the Abu Sayyaf and can invite the deployment of larger foreign forces in the operations.

The extension of the war on terrorism in the Philippines or the opening of a new front in that war is based on the doctrine that was successful in demolishing the Taliban regime. Pentagon and US state department authorities call it a "proxy" war in which countries, where there are terrorist networks, are encouraged to fight terrorism with the assistance of US weapons and troops. This worked successfully in Afghanistan where the United States used the Northern Alliance as a proxy which, of course, was heavily backed by the power of US bombings on Taliban strongholds.

The possibility of the return of permanent US bases is remote and strategic thinking in Washington does not favor bases which are expensive to maintain and which create nationalist political issues. Long-term presence of troops does not constitute permanent basing, but nationalists raise the issue of sovereignty.

The government argues that the exercises stand on firm legal framework and the deployment of US forces in combat zones does not violate the Constitution. But the larger question is whether sovereignty is a real issue. This question is linked to enhancing national security, and if the Republic does not have the capacity to quell rebellions and assert its sovereignty in Abu Sayyaf areas, what sovereignty do we have?

(To be continued)

The fallacy of democracy

THE MONTH-LONG back-to-back celebration of People Power I and II starts in mid-January. Already the Macapagal administration stresses a quiet, no-frill approach to marking the contemporaneous occasions. This assumed political modesty is countered by coup rumors, increasing crescendo of criticism on Ms Macapagal's one-year governance, and media competition from the plights of "fallen" leaders Joseph Estrada and Nur Misuari.

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

As usual, there is the national soul-searching flowing from eminent pundits on where Philippine democracy is now. Mainly, the ideas affirm the meaning of people power, the role of civil society, able leadership—in short, how much democracy has really happened. One can surmise the reviews of the aftermath of Edsa I and II will not be very flattering. Part of the reason is because democracy is often put on a pedestal, not realizing it has its own feet of clay. The exaltation of democracy, not noting its flaws, results in projecting its own falsehood. "Rule of the people" is its worn-out expression. But the Greek Aristotle himself defined it merely as "rule of the mob" in his "good and bad" forms-of-government dichotomy. Our ideal form of democracy where the majority abides by the rule of law, he calls "constitutional polity." Only the trained and self-sufficient are considered part of the polity. The democratic Greeks put a premium on education and economic factors for political stability and social progress.

Democracy has gone on to much progress that the modern usage has destigmatized Aristotle's understanding of the same. Yet, the falsehoods, the fallacy about democracy remain and are perpetuated by elements who stand to gain from the ambiguity of its usage. Here are some fallacies that need to be straightened out if only to learn what the country has gained from these people power events.

1. The fallacy of numbers. Majority rule requires that the same is founded on truth, justice and integrity of actors and issues over which they compete. Numbers alone don't make the substance especially if the latter has been distorted, manipulated or neglected just to go on with the game. The bottom line of the democratic idea must be based on reason, the law and morals. Anything outside of these can only be arbitrary, capricious and dictatorial. John Stuart Mill thought of balancing majority rule with the "rights of the minority." Popularity bereft of humanity is "mob rule" that we should not accept.

2. The fallacy of conformity. In a conference in Seoul last year, the remark on "democratic way of life" was dismissed by Dr. Philippe Schmitter, an integrationist scholar from the European University in Italy. He also clarified that the different concerns for the attainment of democracy by South Korea and the Philippines (for instance) doesn't mean one is more democratic than the other. Democracy is an orientation and not an exercise in conformity or agreement all the time. The word "consensus" means convergence only after the examination by the senses of conditions that uphold reason, rule of law and sound moral judgment. Political culture takes different routes, but in the end the basic human condition achieved by the more advanced elements serves as the benchmark for the rest of society to follow. These are the elites in their best light.

3. The fallacy of marginality. Many Filipino leaders pay lip service to the marginal elements of the Philippine society as if their concern for them will up their ratings in the next SWS or Pulse Asia survey. Thus, a poor-elite delineation is automatically established. Those identified with the poor are easily declared democratic while the pro-elites are labeled undemocratic. It was thus a welcome perspective when the former priest-turned-political activist Edicio de la Torre pointed out that Philippine society must make greater use of its elites for welfare enhancement programs. This he said in the recent conference of the Philippine Political Science Association (under the leadership of UP Prof. Malaya Ronas). Indeed, democracy is not about marginalization but mainstreaming, bringing to the center, by education and opportunities, the poorer elements so they increase their intelligence, sense of well-being and earning powers. It is not the elites in the center going out and doling out their fortunes to the margins of society. It is enclosing the center with the improved margins of society so that the economic and social gaps diminish or totally disappear. Democracy does not dwell on "class wars" or persistence of one class over the other. Economic classes are ephemeral, reflecting one moment of resource distribution, but not an eternal one. This shows why democracy is not a doctrine that musters rigidity in time. Classes and their occupants change as easily as there are people willing to study and apply their intelligence to the situation. "Laissez faire" is freedom with the will and the commitment. Not all freedom ends in progress. The freedom to booze, philander and commit fraud ends up in lawsuits and incarcerations. The freedom exercised with discipline and responsibility is the stuff of progress and immortality. Often, this is not the chosen path for many among us.

4. The fallacy of equality. Preambles of eminent democratic constitutions in the world always carry the phrase "all men are created equal" or there is "equality before the law." This is often misconstrued that what one has must be possessed by the other. The hidden phrase though—"all things being equal"—is ignored. Equality is not absolute. There are differences in interests, values and status. Somebody who has made an investment for self-growth, social advancement and adjustment has the potentials of moving ahead in society than one who opts to become a "couch potato" and watch TV all day. Differences can be motivational, physical, social, intellectual, spiritual. Each creates its own class of values and orientations. As Robert Reich put it, one can be a geek (intellect) or a shrink (social engineer/entrepreneur). Society stands to benefit from both if it, especially its leaders, know how. In the midst of these fallacies, our expectations of democracy grow, but in awry and horrendous proportions to our national life. Which calls to mind the thought that to be democratic is to be human. But Carey McWilliams, a political scientist from Rutgers University, also said that to be human is to be pathetic. By syllogism, then can we say that our brand of democracy is also pathetic? It's about time we come to grips with reality.

Natalia M.L.M. Morales is professor of Political Science and International Studies at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

The big let-down

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

COMMENTATORS, beholding the hand-wringing that was taking place on the first anniversary of the first Edsa "People Power" Revolt, described our state as "post-coital tristesse." Is this what we were feeling then, and now—the inevitable emotional descent after ascending the heights of glory?

If so, shouldn't we be used to it by now? Shouldn't experience have taught us that there is no way any leader could meet the extraordinary expectations generated by an exercise of "People Power," and thus bitterness, disillusionment and disappointment are natural and inevitable sentiments one year after the "miracle"?

Surely, in this déjà vu of our proudest moment, we knew at the back of our minds that the sudden transformation of the political leadership would be followed by even more instability and struggles for power. One of the strongest sentiments during Edsa Dos, in fact, was a resolve never to repeat the exercise. And yet, even before the year was half over, it was succeeded by a similar massing of people at the Edsa Shrine, even though this was but a mockery of those that came before.

A friend, I believe, was exactly on target when, in the course of discussing our distress, he said: "The trouble is in the past year, we have not seen a single instance when the President took a real risk, made a bold sacrifice, especially with regard to her political plans, for the common good." Shortly after resigning from the Erap Cabinet, Ms Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said she knew she had alienated the *masa* who wanted her to stay on and support the Estrada administration. But she had to do it because it was the right thing to do. Perhaps that's what we're missing now, the assurance that it is not all politics with her, and that she is willing to take bold steps and risk the loss of political capital if only to do the right thing.

* * *

WRITING from Sydney, and with what he says is "deep sadness for my old country," Armando Ang says the "letter to Ms GMA" is "spot on." "As someone from the outside looking in, I have to say that I never shared many people's optimism about GMA," Ang admits. "You are quite right when you say that her communication skill is not up to scratch but I suspect that the malaise is made much worse because she is just not articulating any vision that can inspire the Pinoys. There is no one (more) in dire need of a vision, or inspiration today on this earth than the Pinoys, and I don't think they'll ever get it from GMA.

"Vision is where we are going, strategic plans and statistics is how we are going to get there. The latter is just like a wheelbarrow to a one-armed man if we don't know the former.

"Unlike her father, I don't think she is capable of fully understanding what poverty really is. Empathy is the word not fully understood by the wealthy and the middle class in the Philippines. It is the lack of empathy that caused most of the biggest injustice(s) in the history of humanity. Likewise, it is also the lack of empathy to the poor from those who can make a difference that will explain the ills of the country."

* * *

ANOTHER reader, Eunice Sermonia, says she was "saddened" by the "letter" to GMA not so much by what I had written, but that she agreed with it. "This time last year," she recalled, "I (would awake) in the middle of the night thinking about what will happen to this country, writing e-mail at three in the morning with tears in my eyes. I remember how my nephews labeled me a loony when I was jumping up and down the moment I saw then Defense Secretary Mercado and the generals making their way through the crowd in Edsa. I can't believe that's just a year ago. It seems eons now."

Why the indifference to what is happening to this country?, Sermonia asks. "It's just sad that we feel this way. And we've got 70 million reasons why we should care. That should have been enough."

On the other hand, Ike Eslao points out that "after all the harping about GMA's management style and lack of charisma, I propose you also consider the following:

"For the first time we have a President who has the capacity to address the single (biggest) problem besetting our country: the economy. Unfortunately, we Filipinos have a strange way of dealing with opportunities: look the other way. For one thing, the intricacies of managing the economy have been complicated by its interconnection with politics. Needless to say, economics is a boring subject and we need a professor who can translate the statistics into something at the level of Erap jokes before anybody can 'feel inspired,' let alone (be) convinced. So instead of harping on GMA's inability to translate it at *'maka-masa'* level, let's find people who can do it for GMA. Clue: media people?"

Eslao also asks: "Would we rather have a boring and uninspiring President but who can make the right strategies and decisions on managing our economy rather than the other way around?"

* * *

FINALLY, a brief reply to reader Lina Garcia who wrote that she believed the word "upliftment," which I used in a recent column, does not exist since the noun form of the verb "uplift" is also "uplift." "No offense meant, Ms David. But columnists of your caliber also, in a way, become teachers to readers," she wrote.

Well, Lina, I was sufficiently concerned by your reminder to look up the word in the dictionary. According to "Webster's New World Dictionary," "uplift" is indeed both a transitive verb and a noun, but "upliftment" is also a noun-form of the verb.

But thank you for taking the time to call my attention. Your letter was an "uplifter."

Ruing lost historical collections

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

NOW on its third year, the Museum Foundation's monthly lecture series will focus on collectors, collections and collecting. From the lineup of lectures and speakers I noticed that one area missing is on the collections that were destroyed in the Battle for Manila in 1945. Many books, manuscripts and artifacts important to Philippine history and culture were destroyed together with the buildings of the National Museum and National Library. While we cannot see these things anymore, some have at least survived in photographs or in catalogues and bibliographies.

Once, researching in the British Library, my request for a rare Filipiniana title kept returning to my desk without the book. The illegible scrawl on the slip indicated that the book could not be located so I copied out the entry in the library catalogue and took it to a librarian. After some checking, she too returned empty-handed and said, "You will have to blame the Germans for our failure to produce the book." Not accustomed to dry British humor, I pressed her to explain. The book I wanted was one of the numerous casualties of a German air raid on London during World War II. I didn't know how to react except to complain that if the book did not exist anymore, why was it still in their catalogue? Then I was shown a little code on the catalogue that indicated that the book was not on the inventory anymore. There must be some sense in knowing that something once existed even if it cannot be consulted.

As a historian, I often find myself at a dead-end in research and I am left cursing the loss of prewar collections. One of the fabulous pre- and even postwar collections was that of H. Otley Beyer, the pioneering pre-historian of the Philippines. In a 1947 letter to the director of the Philippine Studies Program at the University of Chicago, he talked about the National Museum collection and his own:

"[At the National Museum] there was considerable looting by the soldiers, and some of the objects taken may possibly have reached Japan, but on the whole I think that little, if any of such material, will ever be recovered. Most of it was in the nature of gold and silver ornaments, coins, medals, jade objects and rare beads—slipped into the soldiers' pockets after the exhibit cases had been pried open. My own collection suffered a loss of roughly P50,000 from Japanese looting in 1942, and about P12,000 more from looting by American soldiers and Filipinos in 1945...Of other anthropological collections in addition to my own and that of the Bureau of Science, I can only say that most of them were destroyed except the Museum of Sto. Tomas University which was undamaged except for a little looting. The best collections lost were those of Dr. Jose P. Bantug, the Ateneo de Manila, Mr. [E.D.] Hester's ceramic collection—all in Manila; the Sequiera Collection in Cebu; and the Oesch and Roth collections in Davao."

Surely, many small collections were also destroyed or dispersed after the war and much of that material would have helped scholars today paint a more complete picture of our past. What makes the quest for the Beyer collection more frustrating is the fact that more valuable, in my opinion, than the artifacts themselves were his notes and manuscripts now either lost or scattered, with the exception of a big part purchased by the National Library of Australia where they are better cared for than they were in the Philippines. After the war, Beyer started to rebuild his collection and kept promising to collate and correlate the data he had gathered for close to half a century. He was left with about 500,000 archaeological specimens roughly divided into: Paleolithic and Mesolithic, 10 percent; Neolithic (early, 5 percent; mid and late, 18 percent) 23 percent; Bronze and Copper Age, 2 percent; Prehistoric Iron Age, 20 percent; Pre-Spanish Porcelain Age, 35 percent; Spanish period and historical, 10 percent.

All of Beyer's specimens were found on trays that were piled one on top of another, sometimes 15 feet high! The labels were all done by Beyer himself using pencil on the back of used bus tickets. He believed that bus tickets were printed on paper that termites and insects did not find delicious. Each object had a reference number that was cited in bound volumes of papers called the "Philippine Ethnographic and Historical Series." He also had 60 unpublished manuscripts on Philippine archaeology bound in six volumes; 25 manuscripts on Philippine tektites all bound in 10 volumes; 30 manuscripts that comprised his Batangas archaeological survey bound in 10 volumes; and his Pugad Babuy catalogue all of 20 manuscripts bound in eight volumes. Before the war, Beyer had completed a two-volume manuscript on Southeast Asian and Chinese ceramic wares found in the Philippines (800 typed pages supplemented by 200 photographs), as well as a fairly complete review of Philippine archaeology up to 1940, listing practically all important excavation sites and their contents.

Of course, Filipino archaeologists today know much more than Beyer did before the war but his raw data for whatever its flaws, can still contribute to our knowledge of pre-history. That is, if we can find and gather what's left of the Beyer collection.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

THEY SAID

Untouchables

"The Macapagal administration is afraid to unmask the perpetrators of the Dec. 30 massacre because big guns and untouchables were probably involved."

—Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon, criticizing the slow pace of the investigation of the Rizal Day bombings

Bad timing

"Toll increases will wreak undue hardship on all residents of Parañaque City, especially in the light of the present economic situation."

—Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita on plans to raise toll rates at the Skyway and the South Luzon Expressway

Nice compliment

"We are a young country and we can learn a lot from the Philippines."

—Papua New Guinea Minister of Finance and Planning Andrew Kumbakor on his country's bridge project patterned after the Philippines' President's Bridge Program

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Call to a necessary patriotism

THE BISHOPS-BUSINESSMEN'S Conference for Human Development calls on all Filipinos to an act of patriotism, to renew our national purpose for the common good of all, especially the poor.

While the survival of the poor is the primordial duty of the government, the Church must defend the poor, otherwise it loses its moral force and our faith will become lifeless.

As for business, if it cannot humanize its profit motives and seeks only its own advantage, then it loses its relevance and invites its own demise.

A peaceful transformation of the nation is needed. Actions that will destabilize and divide the country can only bring more difficulties to our people so we need to work hard together.

Pope John Paul II has issued a new warning on new global power structures of oppression which he said would "impose similar mistakes and abuses on all humanity." He warned: "A market economy left to the unconditional freedom and the globalized organization of work, profiting from the extreme privation of developing peoples often entails grave situations of exploitation that mocks the elementary demands of human dignity."

While thousands have become unemployed due to the economic crisis, some overseas Filipino workers are forced to come home because of the loss of jobs. Thousands can hardly take care of their basic necessities and indigenous peoples' lands and culture are threatened by economic exploitations that do not directly benefit them.

As we pursue the alleviation of the plight of our poor brothers and their massive poverty, let us ensure and take a vigilant stance that all government transactions are made transparent, in order to minimize, if not avoid rampant graft and corruption.

A conversion of minds and hearts is needed. A change of mind-set and values in the Filipino is of prime importance for us to be in solidarity with the poor.

Let business, economy and politics truly favor the poor and not just promote and preserve the interests of the few.

As Pope John Paul II in his message during the celebration of World Peace Day put it: "I wish to say to believers and unbelievers alike, to all men and women of good will who are concerned for the good of the human family and for its future, there can be no peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness."—**BISHOP RAMON B. VILLENA, D.D. and JOSE S. CONCEPCION JR., national co-chairpersons, Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development, Rm. 2 Caritas Manila Bldg., 2002 Jesus St., 1011 Pandacan, Manila**

No willing victim

IS it possible to be a "willing victim" to be killed by hazing? Lenny Villa is dead so he cannot answer this question anymore. I cannot but agree with the INQUIRER editorial of Jan. 14 that the "victim is not willing." Blaming the victim was resorted to by the court when it highlighted that "it is worth pointing out that the neophytes willingly and voluntarily consented to hazing."

Hazing is a crime of torture and when it results in death, it is murder. We are very concerned that the court called the hazing of Villa as " slight physical injuries." We understand why Gerarda Villa said that "my son died all over again" when she heard of the decision of the Court of Appeals.

Even if hazing is banned under the law, the Versola decision (acquitting the 19 accused in the killing of Villa and the downgrading of the sentence of four) will encourage the continuation of hazing in initiation rites for fraternities and the police (yes, the police!). The Versola decision also does not give the correct signals to our youths on how to look at any person as a human being who has a right not to be tortured, a right to life and to live it with dignity. —**AURORA A. PARONG, M.D., executive director, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, 19 Malingap St., Teachers' Village, 1101 Quezon City**

Hard-headed Marvin Hagler

I WATCHED the replay of the Sugar Ray Leonard-Marvin Hagler fight on "Greatest Fights" on Sunday, Dec. 23 2001. It was a great fight from round 1 to 12.

However, I could not imagine how Ronnie Nathanielz, one of our respected ring commentators, could give the fight to Hagler in spite of the split decision of the judges and the sound battering Hagler received from the shifty, barrage-punching Leonard.

Hagler kept coming and coming and remained standing throughout the fight, purely on brute strength and brute stamina. I could not help but think he must be wearing a steel-hard, transparent, plastic helmet because he weathered the continuous blows to his head. No mortal could have hurt him then, not even George Foreman at his peak.

Now I know Marvin's mother was correct when after one of the young Marvin's capers, she yelled: "Marveeeen!!! Come here this minute! You have disobeyed me again, you hard-headed rascal!"—**RICARDO D. DIZON, 28 Molave St., Marikina Heights, Marikina City**

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Arrogance of top gov't officials

ON JAN. 3, officials of the Department of Social Welfare and Development summoned the leaders of three Payatas organizations and representatives of the six "paper boat" kids' families to a meeting at their office. The DSWD officials said the objective of the meeting was to monitor the progress of livelihood projects undertaken by the three organizations with the assistance of the DSWD. These livelihood projects were part of the commitments made by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the Payatas victims during her first State of the Nation Address. These commitments were formalized under a memorandum of agreement signed by representatives of the victims and the DSWD.

These commitments were a result of the victims' long-running campaign for justice and, in particular, the paper-boat project of child-victims during last year's commemoration of the Payatas garbage-slide tragedy.

Unfortunately, the meeting did not tackle the condition of these livelihood projects even if project officers and coordinators of the DSWD were present. Instead, it took a surprisingly macabre turn when Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman used it as a forum to castigate the victims for the Dec. 31, 2001 front-page article of the INQUIRER on the status of the three Payatas paper boat kids.

Soliman blew her top and verbally lashed at the audience, particularly, the parents and relatives of Jayson, Erwin and Jomar. She said that the INQUIRER interview placed the Macapagal administration in a bad light.

We strongly criticize the abuse of power and the stinging remarks unleashed by Soliman against the Payatas victims. She is in no position to reprimand the families of the three paper boat kids for speaking out the truth: that the administration used the children for propaganda and for pro-poor image-building, and that the lives of the children are going the same miserable way as Mang Pandoy.

Power indeed gets into the person's head. In the case of Soliman, we were taken aback by her display of arrogance since she projects herself as a champion of the oppressed and likes to remind everyone that she came from the so-called civil society.

However, we are not completely surprised at such Gloria-like tantrums since the government she represents and defends so blindly also projects itself to be a champion of the poor and the oppressed. Birds of the same feather are the same birds. Such projection is no different from the *makamasa* image carved by Joseph Estrada. The image projection is utterly false, hollow and without the slightest substance. It is all for show just like the theatrical farce that characterized Ms Macapagal's first Sona.

This kind of government is afraid of the truth. Any attempt at truth-saying and exposing the truth is treated as negative criticism and destabilizing. There is no longer any attempt to weigh remarks or commentaries to get at the truth raised against the government. Everything we say is simply either black or white.

So I was not surprised when the President remarked in a year-end interview: "'*Yang si* Aling Mameng, *wala namang magaling na sinabi 'yan tungkol sa gubyerno natin.*"—**CARMEN "MAMENG" DEUNIDA, chair, Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay)**

How about a common Asean time, currency, etc?

NOW that the European Union has adopted the euro as its common currency, maybe the economists of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations should seriously study the possibility of adopting a common Asian currency, possibly to be called the "aseano."

Meanwhile, more doable would be a common Asean time. Of the 10 Asean countries, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei are eight hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+8); Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia's time is GMT+7; while Myanmar's is GMT+6.5. An Asean Time Zone of GMT+7.5 would involve the least change from the present set-up.

Further along the road could be the adoption of a treaty among some or all Asean countries whereby the visa issued by one treaty signatory would be honored by all others, as is the practice in some European countries. This would be a boost to tourism in the region, provided security safeguards can be put in place.

Other steps to further unify the Asean could be preferential tariff rates and an Asean University where Asean scholars can live and study together. We should maintain our separate Asean cultures, but why not adopt innovations which have been successfully implemented in other regions? After all, "there is nothing new under the sun."—**JOSE B. DADO, Balili, Mankayan, Benguet**

Marines to leave Sulu; pro-Nur cops defiant

(From page A1)

group (SMG) composed of police integrees are also to be pulled out of the province and sent to their mother unit in Camp Pendatun in Parang, Maguindanao. But the problem is, who can make them leave?

The bloodbath began Tuesday when former MNLF rebels integrated into the police force detained two Marine soldiers who were monitoring a rally by Misuari supporters in Jolo.

The soldiers were beaten and troops sent to rescue them were attacked.

The following day, irate civilians hacked to death three Scout Rangers at the Jolo public market. Their bodies were later mutilated.

Eleven soldiers were wounded Wednesday when armed followers of Misuari ambushed a patrol near the town of Indanan.

The military put the death toll in the two-day bloodbath at 23—9 Marines, 3 Scout Rangers, 3 police integrees, 1 Army integree and 7 civilians.

Show Misuari to media

Showing Misuari to the media will help appease his followers protesting his arrest and detention, according to a Muslim leader.

"Misuari should be shown to the media, without any interview. That's the immediate solution to the Mindanao problem. That will ease the tension there," Datu Haj Ansari Alonto, convenor of Merdeka, said.

"There are speculations in the hinterland that the one detained in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, could be a mere double of Misuari and that he could be somewhere else," Alonto said.

Alonto was among Muslim leaders in Metro Manila who held a dialogue with Police Director General Leandro Mendoza, Interior Secretary Joey Lina and other police officials at the national police headquarters in Camp Crame.

Since his deportation from Malaysia on July 7, Misuari has neither been shown to nor interviewed by the media.

Journalists have been barred from taking photographs or interviewing the former chair of the MNLF.

Secretary Lina, however, reiterated that a media appearance or interview was not part of the rights granted a detainee under Republic Act 7438, which provides for the rights of a detainee.

Some Muslim groups have expressed outrage over Misuari's arrest and detention at the Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa. They want him transferred to Jolo.

Misuari, 60, fled Jolo after a bloody armed rebellion by his followers in November that left more than 100 people dead.

He was later caught in Malaysia for illegal entry and deported to stand trial for rebellion. He faces 20 years in jail if convicted of inciting to rebellion.

Misuari led the MNLF in a bloody rebellion in the 1970s. A peace deal was signed with the government in 1996, and Misuari was appointed governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

MNLF fighters were integrated into the police and army forces based in Sulu, Misuari's stronghold.

Assure residents

A day after she concluded that Misauri's followers had provoked the shootout on Tuesday, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Lina to defuse the volatile situation in Jolo.

"She has asked Defense Secretary Reyes and Interior Secretary Lina to personally look into the situation there," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Tiglao said the President directed the two officials to "assure the residents and calm them down."

Ms Macapagal also directed Reyes and Lina to determine those responsible for the supposed misencounter between Marines and members of the Jolo police.

"An investigation is now being conducted and I am not at liberty to say who is guilty or who is to blame," said Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, commander of the AFP Southern Command.

NBI steps in

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has been tapped for an "objective" investigation of the clashes, according to Abaya.

The NBI will lead a team of top military and police officials looking into the clashes. "They were given 48 hours to come up with results," Abaya said.

In Zamboanga City, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) also started its own investigation of the mayhem. Lawyer Jose Manuel Mamauag, CHR regional director for Western Mindanao, said he formed a three-member team to undertake an independent fact-finding mission.

The results of the CHR findings would be finalized on Monday.

Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant on Mindanao concerns, said they would concentrate on helping the victims while the investigation was going on.

Dureza arrived in Jolo yesterday with ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin and a medical team. They brought a large supply of medicines.

"What we are trying to do is to involve everybody, to attain solidarity (of civilian and military authorities) and to act on the recommendations of the investigating body. Lives were lost, and that is something we should not just forget," he said.

Loyalty check

Dureza advised the PNP to be "very careful" about subjecting the SMG to a loyalty check. He said the police integrees had proven themselves loyal to the government and had been tested in the fighting in Jolo.

He also defended the right of Misuari's sympathizers to conduct the rally.

"Freedom of expression is a democratic right. We just oppose the violence and the commission of the crimes that took place," he said.

But lawyer Macapanton Abbas Jr. of the Misuari faction of the MNLF said the general observation among Muslims in Sulu was that there "was apparently a plot to start violence in Jolo by disturbing the peaceful rally and allowing the Marines to attack the civilians without any reason at all."

He said it was obvious that the government wanted to justify its refusal to hold Misuari's trial in Jolo.

"The aggression against a peaceful assembly is a violation of the Constitution and punishable under the Revised Penal Code which must not be tolerated, because it will only bring greater instability to the region, and in particular to Jolo, Sulu," he said in a statement.

Hussin said he was "very happy that the situation is not as it is being portrayed in media."

"This is not a quarrel of government forces. This is just a misunderstanding at the level of personalities, not units, as explained to us by (police regional director) Chief Supt. Akmad Omar," Hussin said.

Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin, who was also with Dureza and Hussin, said he would meet with the MNLF integrees in his province to "remind them of their oath to defend the government."

Basilan was the only province that opted to join the ARMM in a plebiscite held in August last year. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo in Manila; Julie S. Alipala and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AFP***

Experts find game show's 'strongest link'

(From page A1)

contestants in the television game show.

So, when should one bank?

Reuters in London reports that mathematicians have finally found the strongest formula to win more money in the hit television show.

They said contestants would win more if they banked their earnings after each correct answer or if they held their nerve until six right responses.

The show tests the wits of eight contestants who win more money for the group with each correct answer. But winnings are only carried over to the next round if contestants bank them before hearing the next question. Once a player banks the money, the stakes go back to the bottom of the scale.

Players considered the weakest link are voted off and the last player left wins all.

"The Weakest Link" originated from the United Kingdom and is hosted by Anne Robinson, who is known for her acerbic comments about the contestants. The show runs in several countries with their own local hosts, who adopt Robinson's hosting style.

Math experts to the rescue

Reuters said mathematician Paul Coe of Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, was struck by how little money was actually won at the end of the show. So he studied the show and came up with a strategy for contestants.

He said banking after six correct answers was the strongest strategy but this rarely happened.

"You usually see them lose their nerve and bank after three or four questions," he told New Scientist magazine.

The next best thing, Coe and his colleagues said, would be for contestants to squirrel away winnings after each right answer.

Although banking after, say, three right answers accumulates much more money than banking after one, strings of three are harder to come by.

In a 21-question round, Coe's team found that players would be better off banking after each question than after three unless their success rate was over 67 percent, which is rarely achieved.

'Unrealistic'

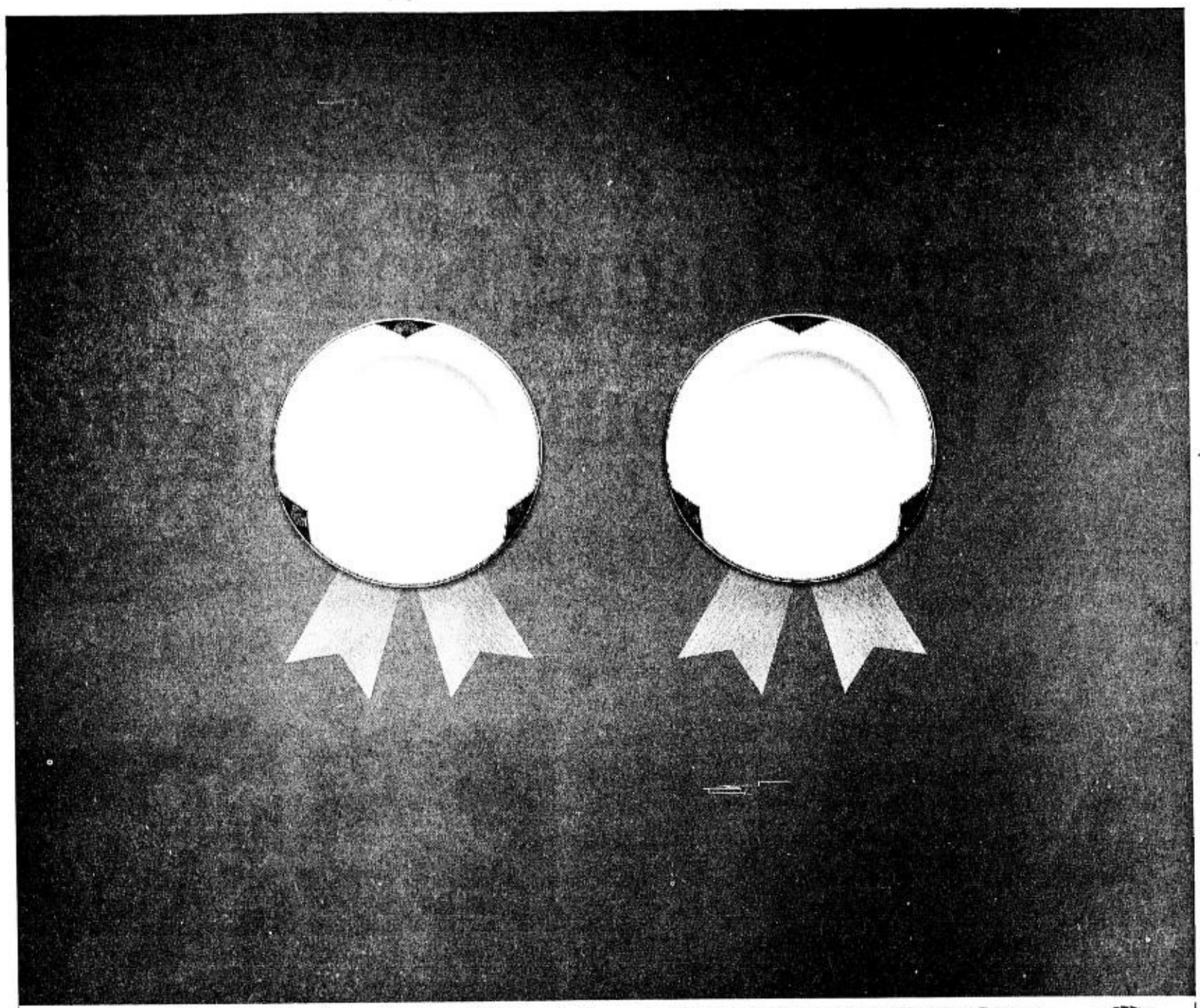
Even if the best strategy on paper is for the contestants to wait for six correct answers to get the most money, the psychological tension of the game makes this unrealistic, cautioned Edward Aboufadel, a mathematician at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan.

"Banking after six questions might give the better payoff, but it could take several rounds for that payoff to happen," he said.

"With Anne Robinson harassing the team for not banking any money, I think people would quickly back out."

Did the mathematicians find a formula against the host's brusqueness?

Coe's colleague, William Butterworth of Barat College in Lake Forest, Illinois, said: "The venomous quality of the host does not come into our mathematical analysis." ***With a report from Reuters***



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Sangguniang Kabataan Gets Serious About Youth Smoking Prevention

The youth of the country has once again come together with one voice and what the nation heard was a thundering, "No to Youth Smoking."

In the recent celebration of the Linggo ng Kabataan, members of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) launched an extensive nationwide Youth Smoking Prevention (YSP) program, a campaign lauded by no less than President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and a host of concerned national leaders, including former President Fidel V. Ramos.

The youth's voices reverberated in every corner of the archipelago with more than 100 SK chapters nationwide, simultaneously filing a uniform proposed ordinance banning the sale of tobacco products to persons below 18 years of age.

The filing of the ordinance was followed by various motorcades and a stickering campaign in most retail outlets and sari-sari stores.

YSP was launched by the SK National Federation in partnership with the Philippine Jaycees and Philip Morris Philippines, Inc.

Health Undersecretary Margarita Galon was the SK's Guest of Honor during the kick-off ceremonies of the Linggo ng Kabataan in Lucena City where the YSP program was launched and a proposed anti-youth smoking ordinance was filed.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon receives YSP materials.

A group of students in Iloilo City was obviously having fun as they joined in the motorcade during the YSP nationwide launching.

SK officials filing the proposed ordinance in Biliran province.

Proudly displaying YSP stickers in support of the ordinance banning the sale of cigarettes to minors.

Jaycees officials post "Not For Sale To Minors" stickers at the Jaycees office.

Putting up stickers in Cagayan De Oro stores.

In Butuan City, high school students pose for posterity after posting YSP stickers in a retail store.

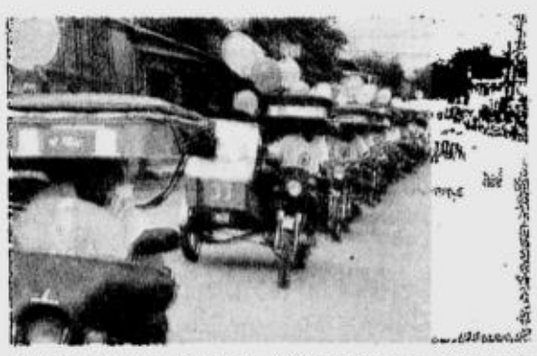
YSP made itself known with mascots in Lapu-lapu, Cebu.

In Lucena City, ROTC cadets joined the launching of the YSP program.

Kids of Olongapo City wearing YSP t-shirts say it all: Children should not smoke.

A special dance number during the Iloilo launch.

In Baguio City, SK members and students enthusiastically post "Not for Sale to Minors" stickers in every sari-sari store.



In San Fernando City, Pampanga, even tricycle drivers participated in the motorcade supporting the YSP campaign.

Even a sidewalk stall now displays the YSP sticker in Iloilo City.

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LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

India softens Pakistan stand

NEW DELHI—India was making conciliatory gestures toward Pakistan as US Secretary of State Colin Powell was to arrive in the Indian capital on Thursday.

On the eve of Powell's visit, India announced it was open to dialogue with its South Asian nuclear rival and called a speech by the Pakistani president "path-breaking."

Indian Home Minister Lal K. Advani praised a speech in which President Gen. Pervez Musharraf condemned terrorism and vowed to curb Islamic militants accused of launching attacks in India.

"The speech which Gen. Musharraf has made is important, is in a way path-breaking," Advani said. "I have not heard earlier any other Pakistani leader denouncing theocracy in the manner in which Gen. Musharraf did."

Advani's comments, a clear change of India's previous lukewarm response to Musharraf's speech on Saturday, came just as he returned from Washington and on the eve of Powell's visit.

Powell, who arrived in Pakistan on Wednesday for the first leg of his Asian tour aimed at pulling the two nations back from confrontation, praised Musharraf for launching the crackdown on Islamic militants.

"The important thing now is for both sides to make a political judgment that the way out of this crisis is political and diplomatic, and not through conflict," Powell told a news conference in Islamabad. "We need a campaign against terrorism, not a campaign with these two countries fighting one another."

Powell traveled to Afghanistan for a brief stop Thursday before heading to India later in the day.

India and Pakistan have massed hundreds of thousands of troops on their frontier since a Dec. 13 suicide attack on the Indian Parliament, which New Delhi blamed on Pakistan-based Islamic militant groups and Pakistan's spy agency. Pakistan and the two groups denied involvement.

An Indian Army spokesperson said Thursday that moderate small-arms fire between Indian and Pakistani troops resumed overnight across the Line of Control that divides Kashmir.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over the Himalayan province, which both countries claim. India accuses Pakistan of fighting a proxy war by funding and arming more than a dozen Islamic militant groups in Indian-controlled Kashmir. The 12-year insurgency has cost more than 32,000 lives.

On Saturday, Musharraf said he would not allow militants to conduct terrorist acts in the name of Kashmir. However, he said his country would continue to support their claim of independence for the mostly Muslim region or a merger with Pakistan.

In his speech, Musharraf announced a ban on five groups, including Islamic and Kashmiri militants. He also announced restrictions on religious schools that have become terrorist breeding grounds, and authorities have arrested nearly 2,000 suspected militants in a nationwide crackdown. *AP*

INDIAN Army soldiers rehearse for the Republic Day parade in New Delhi, Jan. 17. The annual parade has been scaled down this year because of the heavy deployment of men and armor on the border with Pakistan. REUTERS

US indicts shoebomb suspect

REID

WASHINGTON—Richard Reid, a Briton who trained with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network in Afghanistan, was indicted on Wednesday for attempting to destroy an airliner with 197 people on board last month when he tried to ignite explosives in his shoes.

The indictment, handed up by a federal grand jury in Massachusetts, said Reid, 28, had received training from al-Qaida, which the United States has blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Reid is charged as an al-Qaida-trained terrorist who attempted to destroy American Airlines Flight 63 with explosive devices concealed in his shoes," US Attorney General John Ashcroft told a news conference in announcing the indictment.

Reid was aboard American Airlines Flight 63 bound from Paris to Miami on Dec. 22 when he was overpowered by passengers and crew. The plane then landed in Boston, where he was taken into custody.

The nine-count indictment charged Reid with attempted murder, attempted homicide and attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction—"a destructive device consisting of an explosive bomb in each of his shoes."

Other charges included placing an explosive device on an aircraft, attempted destruction of aircraft, interfering with flight crew members and flight attendants, using a destructive device during a violent crime and attempted wrecking of a mass transportation vehicle.

A lawyer for Reid, Assistant Federal Public Defender Tamar Birckhead, said the indictment "is merely an accusation, and no more." She said Reid must be presumed innocent. *Reuters*

5 ex-Symbionese Army members charged for 1975 slay

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Five ex-members of the Symbionese Liberation Army, including one-time fugitive Sara Jane Olson, were charged with murder Wednesday for shooting a mother-of-four to death while robbing a California bank in 1975.

The charges against the former SLA guerrillas, who shot to fame in the early 1970s after kidnapping newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst, came after police arrested three of the suspects early on Wednesday: Emily Harris, her ex-husband Bill Harris and Michael Bortin.

Sacramento County District Attorney Jan Scully said first degree murder charges would also be filed against Kathleen Ann Soliah, who as Sara Jane Olson pleaded guilty in October to aiding and abetting a separate crime committed by the group, and James Kilgore, a former SLA member who remains at large.

"We all agree that after almost 27 years, justice has not been served," Scully told a news conference.

The murder charges stem from the April 21, 1975 shooting of Myrna Opsahl, 42, who was killed when the group raided the Crocker National Bank in Carmichael, California.

The arrests could resolve one of the last mysteries left by the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), a tiny group of gun-toting California political extremists.

They came just two days before Olson—who lived for years in anonymity as the wife of a Minnesota doctor—is due for sentencing in a separate 1975 SLA plot to bomb a police car. *Reuters*

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ANYWHERE IN WORLD

UN Council renews sanctions on Taliban

UNITED NATIONS—The Security Council renewed sanctions on the former Afghan Taliban regime and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network Wednesday so as to strike at terrorist groups anywhere in the world, diplomats said.

The 15 council members voted unanimously for a resolution to extend the sanctions—an arms embargo, a freeze on the groups' assets abroad and restrictions on the movement of their officials—for 12 months.

After that period, the council will review the sanctions and "either decide to allow these measures to continue or decide to improve them," the resolution said.

The text made it clear that sanctions, originally imposed when the Taliban were in power, no longer applied to the territory of Afghanistan, now under a multi-ethnic interim government supported by the United Nations.

One diplomat noted that since the fall of the Taliban in November, al-Qaida's forces were less concentrated within Afghanistan than outside.

In the resolution, the council recalled its "unequivocal condemnation of the terrorist attacks" on the United States on Sept. 11 and said it was determined to prevent any from occurring again.

It condemned al-Qaida for "multiple criminal, terrorist acts, aimed at causing the deaths of numerous innocent civilians and the destruction of property," and the Taliban for allowing Afghanistan to be used as a base for terrorist activities.

A council diplomat said the resolution broke new ground by applying United Nations sanctions to groups and individuals without linking them to a country.

It explicitly removed an embargo on all flights into and out of Afghanistan, imposed in October 1999.

Other measures which had previously applied to areas of the country under Taliban control, now make no mention of territory.

On Tuesday, the council adopted a separate resolution lifting a flight ban and financial restrictions on the state airline Ariana. On Jan. 11, it exempted the central bank of Afghanistan from sanctions by removing it from a list of entities mentioned in connection with the assets freeze.

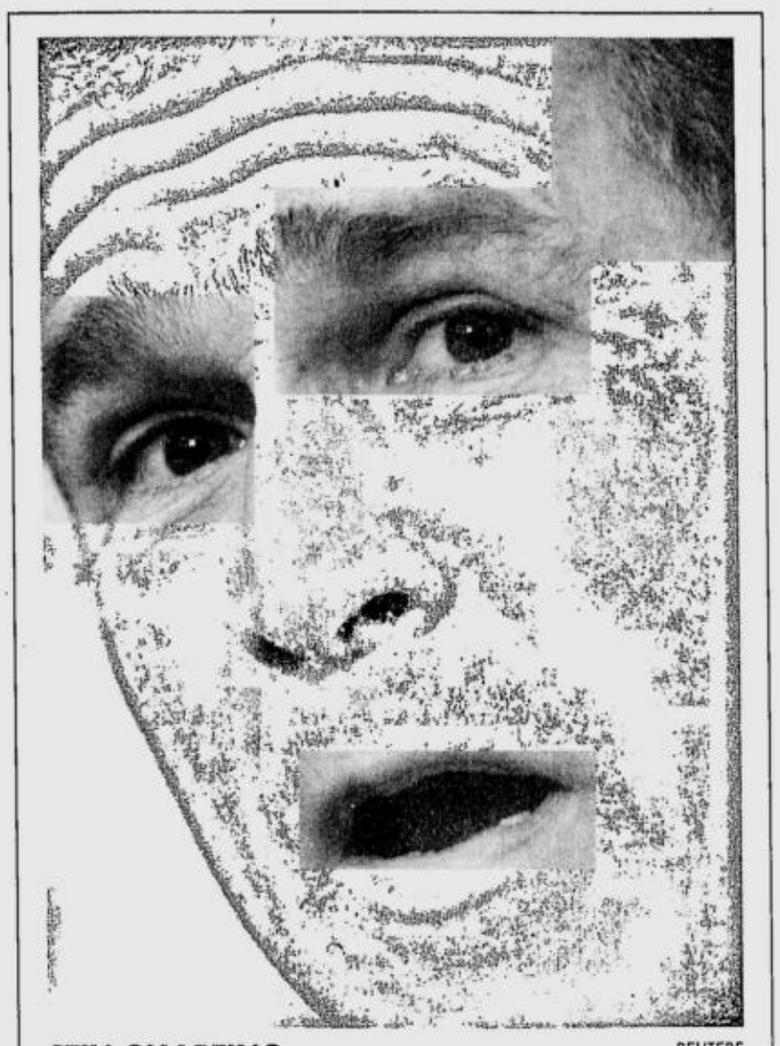
The sanctions were originally designed to force the Taliban to hand over Bin Laden, who was indicted on 224 counts of murder in the United States after twin bomb attacks on two US embassies in Tanzania and Kenya on Aug. 7, 1998.

They were reinforced in December 2000, nine months before terrorists slammed hijacked US commercial airliners into the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center and into one wing of the Pentagon near Washington.

Those attacks, which President George W. Bush blamed on al-Qaida, triggered US-led strikes on Afghanistan starting in October which led to the collapse of the Taliban and to the creation of a new interim administration in Kabul.

In the meantime, on Sept. 28, the Security Council had adopted its Resolution 1373, which obliged all UN member states to pass laws and take government action to deny funds, safe haven and support to terrorist groups.

A council diplomat noted, however, that 1373 did not identify any group by name, and said Resolution 1390, adopted Wednesday, was necessary to maintain pressure specifically on Bin Laden, al-Qaida and the Taliban. *AFP*



STILL SMARTING REUTERS

US President George W. Bush, sporting a bruise sustained during a fainting spell, answers a question while hosting a meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit in the Oval Office of the White House, Jan. 16. The president announced he was ordering the lifting of the ban on US citizens traveling to Turkey.

Argentina to feed its poor

BUENOS AIRES—Argentina on Wednesday announced emergency measures to feed the poor and considered using troops in support roles to free up police facing rising unrest and protests over banking curbs.

US President George W. Bush on Wednesday night offered support to Latin America's third-largest economy through international financial institutions if it implements a "sound and sustainable" economic plan but added a warning.

"Shortcuts to reform only lead to more trouble," Bush said in a speech at the Organization of American States. "Half measures will not halve the pain, only prolong it."

In a show of good faith, the Washington-based International Monetary Fund agreed to delay, for one year, an Argentine loan repayment of $933 million due on Thursday and repeated it wanted to help the bankrupt Latin American nation.

With public anger flaring into violence, ministers debated using troops to guard frontiers and distribute humanitarian aid to free up civilian police to patrol streets.

They also launched plans to buy P350-million worth of food—$250 million at the new official exchange rate—to feed the poor, who looted supermarkets last month, triggering riots that forced out the elected president and killed 27. *Reuters*

Fired Andersen man grilled on Enron

WASHINGTON—Congressional investigators said on Wednesday they quizzed a fired Andersen partner about the accounting firm's ties to collapsed energy trader Enron Corp., while also learning that Andersen was warned of trouble at Enron last summer by an internal whistleblower.

David Duncan, the fired Andersen audit partner, met for four-and-a-half hours with lawyers and eight House Energy and Commerce Committee staff members, congressional aides said.

"He cooperated fully with us. He answered all our questions and provided us with valuable leads that we are now pursuing," said Ken Johnson, spokesperson for the Republican majority side of the committee chaired by Louisiana Republican Rep. Billy Tauzin.

Duncan was fired on Tuesday by Big Five accounting firm Andersen for his alleged role in destroying e-mails and documents sought by federal agents probing Andersen's audits of Enron's books.

"He was quizzed about everything from his handling of the Enron account to the destruction of documents," Johnson said, adding that Duncan likely would be among witnesses called to appear before the committee when it convenes a full hearing.

Sullivan & Cromwell, the law firm representing Duncan, said in a statement: "Mr. Duncan is continuing to cooperate with all investigations of this matter, and he looks forward to full disclosure of the truth."

The firing of Duncan was the first public step by Andersen to assign individual blame for problems with its audits of Houston-based Enron. Three other partners responsible for the Enron work were placed on leave by Andersen. Johnson said the committee was obtaining interviews with those three, as well.

A spokesperson for the minority side of the committee had a different assessment of the Duncan interview, saying, "Our investigators were disappointed by the limited nature of Mr. Duncan's memory. We expect documents and other witnesses to fill in the blanks." *Reuters*

Israeli troops kill Palestinian militant

NABLUS, West Bank—Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian gunman early on Thursday on the outskirts of the West Bank town of Nablus, Palestinian and Israeli security sources said.

The Palestinian sources identified the man as Hamid Ahmed Ali Abdullah, 42, a senior member of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an unofficial armed group in Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

The killing was the latest in a surge of violence that has shattered a three-week lull in more than 15 months of bloodshed since the Palestinians began an uprising against Israeli occupation in September 2000.

Israel responded to the new spasm of violence by tightening its blockade of Jenin and Qalqilya in the West Bank on Wednesday. It said on Thursday it had also tightened the encirclement of three other West Bank towns or cities—Ramallah, Tulkarm and Nablus.

Palestinian hospital sources said Abdullah was killed by a bullet to the chest, and there were no other casualties.

The Palestinian security sources said Abdullah was armed and was with a group of other armed men when he was shot in an exchange of fire with troops near Askar, a Nablus refugee camp.

The Israeli Army did not immediately comment. The Israeli security sources said troops had shot dead a Palestinian in an exchange of fire after a routine Army patrol confronted an armed Palestinian during the night.

The Israeli security sources said the patrol chanced upon the man and had not identified him.

Another leader of the Brigades, Raed al-Karmi, was killed on Monday in an explosion in Tulkarm which the Palestinians blamed on Israel. The Brigades have responded by shooting dead two Jewish settlers in the West Bank. *Reuters*

Department of Education

Bawat Graduate, Bayani at Marangal

PROCEDURES IN THE RECRUITMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

1. Applications shall be filed with public elementary and secondary schools campuses.
2. The applicant should submit a:
   a. Photocopy of Licensure Exams for Teachers (LET) rating
   b. Photocopy of the transcript of records
   c. Service record, if any
   d. Duly accomplished CS Form 212 in 2 copies with the latest 2" x 2" ID picture

   NOTE: These records need not be certified true copies but they should be attested to as true and correct by the applicant.
3. CS Form 212 may be obtained from:
   a. Any DepEd regional, division, district office or school
   b. DepEd's website: www.deped.gov.ph
   c. Typing and filling up in a short bond paper (8 ½" x 11") the data required in Form 212 below.

   Fill out the form and attest to the information as true and correct.
4. The principal and at least one member of the school selection committee shall individually interview the applicants.
5. Ranking of applicants shall be based on the following factors:

For applicants without teaching experience:		
a. LET/Teachers Board Rating	-	30%
b. Education	-	30%
c. Interview	-	30%
d. Work experience, if any	-	10%
For applicants with teaching experience:		
a. LET/Teachers Board Rating	-	30%
b. Teaching experience	-	30%
c. Interview	-	20%
d. Education	-	20%

6. The school principal shall rank and recommend hiring to the schools division superintendent.
7. All applicants accepted shall be notified by the end of March.
8. Appointments of teachers shall be issued by the schools division superintendents starting April.
9. The Regional Offices shall oversee recruitment, selection and appointment of teachers to ensure that the most qualified applicants are hired pursuant to guidelines.

FORM 212 (Revised January 2002) PERSONAL DATA SHEET PHOTO (2x2)

1. _____ _____ _____
   SURNAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME
2. SEX: ( ) Male ( ) Female 3. CIVIL STATUS: ( ) Single ( ) Married ( ) Widower / Widow ( ) Separated
4. If Married, write Maiden Name: _____ 5. NAME OF SPOUSE: _____ OCCUPATION: _____
6. TAXPAYER'S IDENTIFICATION NO. : _____ 7. CITIZENSHIP: _____ RELIGION: _____
8. DATE OF BIRTH : _____ 9. PLACE OF BIRTH : _____
10. HEIGHT (Meters) : _____ 11. WEIGHT (Kilos) : _____ 12. BLOOD TYPE : _____
13. ADDRESS: _____ 14. TELEPHONE NO. : _____
15. NAME OF FATHER: _____ Place of Birth: _____
16. NAME OF MOTHER: _____ Place of Birth: _____
17. CHILDREN: *(Names and Ages)* _____

(Continue on separate sheet, if necessary)

18. EDUCATION:	Elementary	Secondary	Vocational	College	Postgraduate
Name of School:					
Degree Earned:					
No. of Units Completed:					
Inclusive Dates of Attendance:					
Honors Received:					

(Continue on separate sheet, if necessary)

19. CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY / PROFESSINAL BOARD / BAR — Date of Examination — Rating — Place of Examination

(Continue on separate sheet, if necessary)

20. RECORD OF IN-SERVICE TRAININGS (Accredited by the CSC) STUDY AND SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS
Title of seminar/conference course training — Inclusive Dates — No. of Hours — Conducted By

(Continue on separate sheet, if necessary)

21. SERVICE RECORD *(Include experience outside government service)*
Inclusive Dates/Position/Department-Agency/Monthly Salary/Status of Appointment
22. SPECIAL SKILLS: _____
23. OTHER QUALIFICATIONS (Include membership in related association, hobbies, etc.) _____

(Continue on separate sheet, if necessary)

24. Are you related by consanguinity or affinity to the appointing or recommending authority, or to the chief of bureau or office or to the person who has immediately supervision over you in the Office, Bureau, or Department where you will be appointed
   a) within the third degree? ( ) Yes ( ) No
   b) within the fourth degree (for LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES)? ( ) Yes ( ) No
   If "YES", give particulars. _____
25. Do you have any pending: a) administrative case ( ) Yes ( ) No b) criminal case? ( ) Yes ( ) No. If you have any, give details of the offense _____
26. Have you ever been convicted of any crime or violation of any law, decree, ordinance or regulations by any court or tribunal? ( ) Yes ( ) No
27. Have you ever been convicted of any administrative offense? ( ) Yes ( ) No. If your answer is "YES", give details of the offense. _____
28. Have you ever been retired, forced to resign or dropped from employment in the public and private sector?
   ( ) Yes ( ) No. If "YES", give reasons. _____
29. Have you ever been candidate in a national or local election (except Barangay election)? ( ) Yes ( ) No
   If "YES", give date of election and other particulars. _____
30. REFERENCES *(Persons not related by consanguinity or affinity to applicant/appointee)*
   Name / Address _____
31. I declare that the answers given above are true and correct: *(Signature)* _____ Date Accomplished: _____
32. Community Tax Cert. No.: _____ Issued at _____ Issued on _____
   Thumbmark: _____ *(Right)*

RESCUE workers exit from a Garuda Indonesia 737 which made a forced landing in the swollen Bengawan Solo river near the town of Klaten in Central Java, Jan. 16. REUTERS

Survivors of jetliner crash recount ordeal

SOLO, Indonesia—Trapped in her seat as water rushed into a Boeing 737 jetliner that crash-landed on an Indonesian river, Reni Sukrowati gave her seven-month-old daughter to another passenger and begged him to save her life.

"My baby was going under the water. I just managed to get hold of her head," she said on Thursday from her hospital bed in the town of Solo, on Indonesia's main island of Java. "I saw blood everywhere. All I could think about was how to save her."

The Garuda Indonesia jet—with 54 passengers and six crew aboard—came down on Wednesday in the Bengawan Solo River, that cuts through densely populated farmland about 500 km east of Jakarta.

Sukrowati, 23, said she managed to free her legs which were pinned between her seat and the one in front before scrambling from the wreckage and jumping into the shallow river.

Local villagers pulled her from the one-meter-deep water and reunited her with her baby, who had suffered minor cuts and bruises.

A government crash investigator, Oetarjo Diran, said the plane's two engines stopped working moments before the emergency landing as the aircraft was being tossed about in heavy turbulence during a monsoonal rainstorm.

A flight attendant was killed in the accident. Police said she was thrown from the plane through a door that burst open as the aircraft hit the water. Her body was found one kilometer downstream from the wreckage. Seven other people on board were seriously injured. *AP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 23° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 16°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/01/18/02

Tribe starts probe of mayor's murder

BAGUIO CITY—About 200 members of the Maeng tribe in Abra denounced on Wednesday a supposed New People's Army letter that implicated slain Tubo Mayor Jose Segundo to several episodes of sexual misconduct.

Led by Segundo's bride of five months, 21-year-old Mary Bless Binong, the tribesmen and their elders also announced that they are conducting their own investigation of the mayor's murder on Dec. 27.

They complained that the official government investigation only unearthed "rumors that destroyed Segundo's name."

Segundo, a faith healer and member of the Maeng tribe, was gunned down as he navigated on horseback a rough portion of Barangay Tubtuba in Tubo town.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the Cordillera police to hasten their investigation, after meeting with Segundo's relatives in Abra on Jan. 10.

PO3 Ferdinand Segundo, one of the mayor's sons, said the elders received a letter of sympathy from the Abra-based NPA unit on Dec. 29. It was signed by a certain "Ka Belgas."

"We already knew the NPA had nothing to do with it," an elder stressed in Ilocano.

But the young Segundo said the elders were surprised by the subsequent release and publication of another letter, this time from "Martin Montana of the Chadli Molintas Command" in Benguet, which attributed Segundo's murder to a series of sexual crimes.

The letter was first leaked to a national broadsheet (not the INQUIRER) last week before it was released on Jan. 8 and published by Baguio newspapers last week.

In the letter, Montana said the NPA disowned Segundo's murder. But the same letter insinuated that communist rebels would have targeted Segundo because of his supposed sexual offenses that had victimized scores of Abra women.

"What rape incidents? What sexual offenses? If there was rape, all the media had to do was check the police records. Among the (Maeng) tribe, a rape gets the capital offense. Igorots do not condone rape," said Samuel Dapapa, a Kalinga tribesman now based in Bangued, Abra.

Dapapa told the INQUIRER that he was a close friend of Segundo and had traveled to Baguio with the Maeng tribesmen to "right the wrongs" made by a local newspaper, which quoted Montana's letter for a Sunday story.

The tribesmen's initial agenda was to meet with the reporter who wrote the story.

The reporters covering the press conference here had to suffer in silence, while Maeng elders chastised the media for "insulting the memory of Segundo."

"The Maeng (tribe) is good, and (Segundo) is a good tribesman. He did not abuse women. He did not rape them. I don't even know what sexual harassment is, but I am sure that is not what he did," an elderly barangay chair said.

Binong, who married Segundo on July 26 last year, said she was "the only woman (Segundo) loved."

"He told me I was the only woman for him, and I believed that. I know there were no other women, and he was not involved in any assault," she said.

She also said her marriage had the blessings of Segundo's three former wives. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Kalibo readies for 'Ati-Atihan'

KALIBO, Aklan—This capital town is all spruced up for the celebration of its Sto. Niño "Ati-Atihan" festival.

The yearly mardi gras began on Jan. 10 with a daily novena, rosary and Mass in honor of the Aklanons' patron Señor Sto. Niño. It will culminate on Jan. 19-20 with the Ati-Atihan dance parade, procession and fireworks display at the Magsaysay Park.

The age-old faith healing tradition and miraculous "*pahilot*" or "*paeapak*" have been ongoing at the Kalibo Cathedral.

This year's celebration is less commercialized but merrier and more exciting than the previous celebrations, said Mayor Raymar A. Rebaldo.

Rebaldo, who also heads the Kalibo Ati-Atihan Management Board, said the organizers had decided to focus more on the real essence of the festival than its commercial aspect.

He stressed that he was pushing for a reinvigorated Ati-Atihan by reviving some of its original activities, like the dawn procession of the Sto. Niño at the Magsaysay Park, the parade of the Higantes (giant creatures made of papier maché) and the active participation of students wearing tribal costumes.

More than 45 tribes will be participating this year, a far cry from the 10 tribes that participated last year, Rebaldo said.

He said the municipal government has increased its subsidies for the tribes at P10,000 for the big groups (from P4,000) and P5,000 for the small ones, (from P2,500).

Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

ROUNDUP

Japanese sued by wife

CALUMPIT, Bulacan—A Japanese was charged with rape and slight physical injuries before the provincial prosecutor's office in Malolos for allegedly forcing his wife to have sex with him. Police said the wife of the 44-year-old Japanese filed the charges after her husband, at knifepoint, forced her to have sex with him. Police said the woman suffered cuts and bruises when she fought off her husband.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

'Rat tail' contest

CAUAYAN CITY—The city government has launched a "rat tail" contest among farmers and village councils in this city to get rid of rats infesting palay farms. The contest will start this month and end in December. Rufino Arcega, city agriculturist, said the "rodent management contest" aimed to give farmers and villagers additional income. Mayor Caesar Dy said farmers whose fields were ravaged by rats were in danger of losing half of their crop production. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Presidential awardees

LUCENA CITY—The Department of the Interior and Local Government in Southern Tagalog will present presidential awards to several outstanding local government units in the region in a ceremony in Malacañang on Jan 21. Leonila Lariosa, DILG regional director, said the awardees for Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran were Marinduque for the provincial category; Lucena, highly urbanized city; Tagaytay, component city; Brooke's Point, Palawan, 1st 3rd class municipality; Gasan, Marinduque, 4th 6th class municipality; Coron Lake in Palawan; and the Narra River, also in Palawan. The Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentive's Award will be given to the Barangay Bagong Nayon, Antipolo City. The Sajid Bulig Presidential Award for Heroism will be conferred on Reynaldo Cruz of San Mateo, Rizal. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

San Pablo crimes down

SAN PABLO CITY—The crime volume in the city was lower by 30 percent in the second semester of 2001 than that of the same period in 2000. A report of the local city police station headed by Supt. Ramon P. Dominguez recorded 466 crime incidents from July to December 2001 compared to 605 in the same period in 2000. The police solved 419 of these cases, which is slightly higher than the 2000 figure. The index crimes recorded in the city were physical injuries, murder, homicide, rape, robbery, and theft. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Gunmen kill 2 villagers

OZAMIZ CITY—Two persons were killed by still unidentified armed men in a hinterland village in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte, on Wednesday, police said. The victims were identified as Melchor Banquiao, 47, and his farm helper Neil Paglinawan, 22, both of Poblacion, Kauswagan. The two were in Barangay Paiton to dry some coconuts when the armed men arrived and started shooting. Residents found the mutilated bodies of the victims after the gunmen left.

Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

State of calamity

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The provincial government placed at least 13 villages under a state of calamity after flash flood damaged at least P27-million worth of agricultural products. Vice Gov. Jesus Sacdalan said the declaration was important because it would facilitate the release of calamity fund to help the victims. At least 12,162 families, mostly farmers, were displaced when flash flood submerged large areas of the province several days ago. *Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Computers for public schools

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Department of Trade and Industry here has distributed 620 computers to 31 public high schools in Cagayan Valley. Ellerie Ramel, DTI regional information officer, said the distribution of the computers was under the DTI's Personal Computers for Public High Schools project. The project includes the distribution of 20 computer laboratory packages per school, training of teachers on the use of computers, and implementation of a basic computer education program.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Erratum

THE HEADLINE of the story that appeared in the Across the Nation section on page A14 (1/16/02) should have read "Suspected 'jueteng' lord shot dead," not "Suspected drug lord shot dead." We regret the error.

'Ghost' workers, teachers in ARMM

COTABATO CITY—The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao under the administration of then Gov. Nur Misuari failed to remit funds to the Government Service Insurance System, according to an investigative team.

Nabil Tan, newly designated executive secretary of Gov. Parouk Hussin, said the team also discovered more than 2,000 "ghost teachers" who have been receiving salaries and benefits from the regional government.

Almost the same number comprised "ghost employees" who were accommodated by the previous administration.

In many past instances, contractual employees had threatened to padlock the ARMM executive building here when their salaries and benefits were delayed.

At one time, even security aides of Misuari padlocked his office when they failed to receive their salaries for five months.

One of the ARMM offices that deliberately refused to remit GSIS premiums collected from employees was the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Tan said.

"Those who suffer are ordinary employees and not previous officials of this government," Tan told radio dxMS.

He did not mention the amount involved in the irregularities, but a source in the ARMM said it ran to millions of pesos.

The probe team, according to Tan, also found that several employees in various offices reported for work only on paydays.

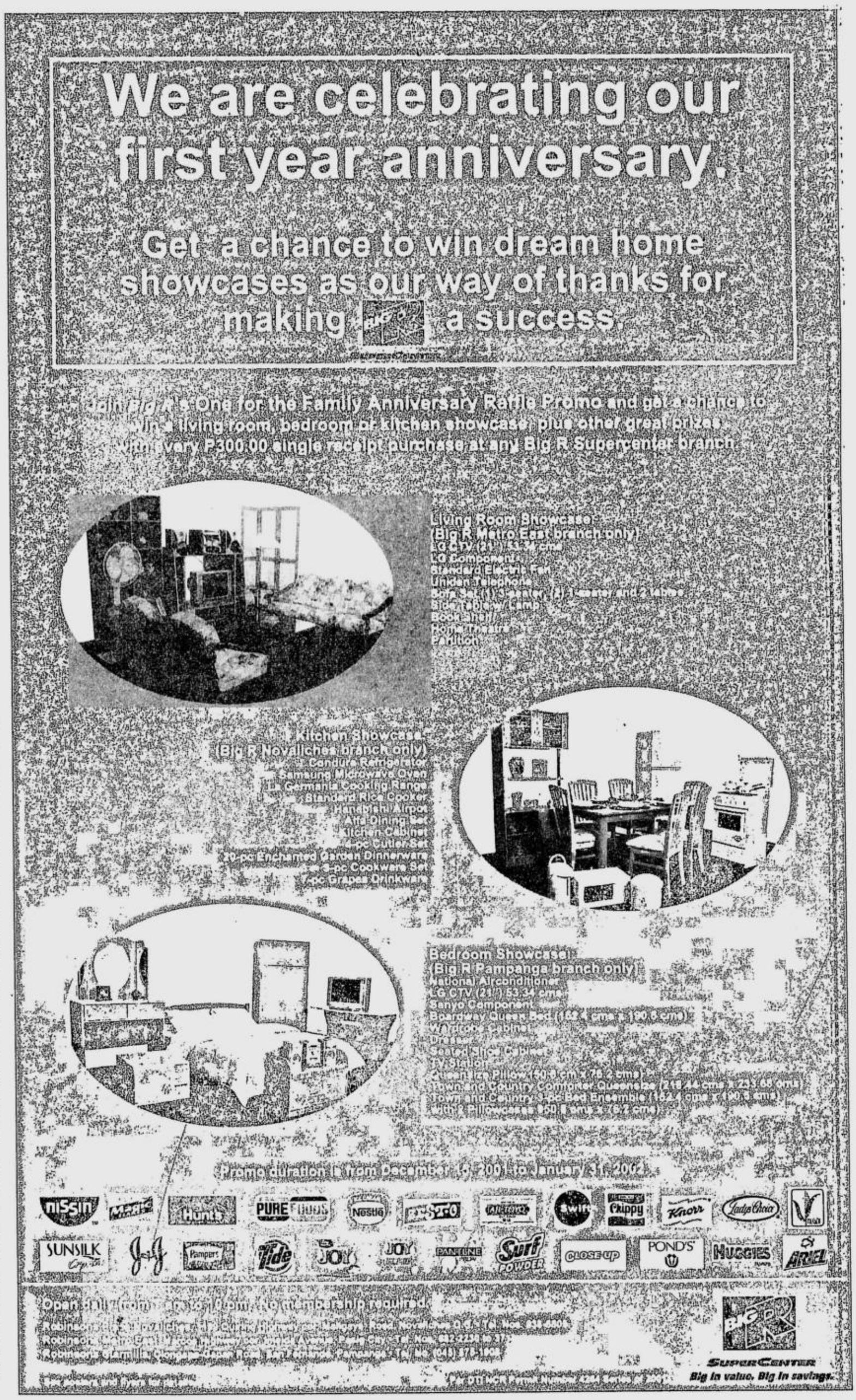
"What we are doing now is getting rid of these people because they will cause the failure of the new ARMM leadership," Tan, former deputy presidential adviser on peace process, said.

He said charges would be filed against those responsible for draining the regional treasury.

Earlier, Hussin named more Cabinet officials whom he described as "capable and dedicated men and women" who will help him run the affairs of the region.

He appointed Manuel Alano as labor regional secretary and Ishak Mastura as trade and industry secretary.

Other officials were Joel Maglunob (public information), Kabutalan Emblawa (environment), Dr. Lampa Pandi (health), Omar Jaafar (Tesda), Nasser Salmani (agriculture), Bashir Ingko (agrarian reform), and Vice Gov. Mahid Mutilan (education). *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

'WAKE-UP CALL FOR GMA'

Ilocos Sur execs, Chavit critics hold Edsa II rites

GOOD FOOD $$$, GOOD LIFE ???

Better to starve fighting than to starve working!
(Lawrence, Massachusetts. Strike of 1912)

Labor repression begets widespread labor unrest! The current regime cannot furthermore conceal the heightened unemployment, meager wages of the people, here and abroad.

In the province of Laguna alone, several companies, claimed to be "indispensable to national interest", have worsening labor disputes. One of which is the Nestle Cabuyao Plant, Nestle Phils.' largest factory in terms of product mix, facilities, skills and labor force. It serves as a major supplier of milk products for more than four Asian countries; and even provides business opportunities for sub-contractors, and co-packers outrightly implementing unlawful contractualization.

On the eve of January 14, 2002, our brave union leaders, members, and supporters, instigated a work stoppage. For more than seven months, we have painstakingly coordinated with the company and the State's intervention to resolve the resumption of a new CBA negotiation. Before, initial discussions on the ground rules, the company insisted on omitting our retirement benefits as a condition for the negotiations to push through. The Retirement Plan is a valid CBA issue, which we fought for during a bloody strike, last September 11, 1987. It was later approved by the National Labor Relation Commission decision last August 8, 1989, and affirmed by a Supreme Court ruling last February 4, 1991. *["The court agrees with the NLRC findings that the retirement plan was a "a collective bargaining issue right from the start" (pg 109, Rollo)]*

The company reasoned out that "the workers have no monetary contribution to the company", and granting the plan is company's prerogative. *We may not have financial contributions, but since the plant was established, our efforts and skills, our very lives were already invested to make the company one of the best.*

Year 2001 ended, still, the company refuses to bargain. The new year started with an explosive discovery; *the company's real reason for omitting the retirement plan, is because the supposedly trust fund was illegally invested and currently used as a share for PENPRO, Inc. Last December 14, 1998, PENPRO Inc. was registered at the Securities and Exchange Commission (Sec Reg No. A199816828). It's main purpose ranges from developing, investing, leasing, and acquiring major corporate assets and even personal properties. It could also enter any profit sharing arrangements and aid any corporate entity. Aside from the Nestle Phil. Retirement Fund, shareholders of the corporation include Juan B. Santos-Chief Exec. Officer of Nestle Phils. Inc. and one of Pres. Gloria M. Arroyo's economic advisers; Marcelino C. Pineda- Vice Pres. For corporate Human Resource Dept of Nestle Phil., and Jaime Lardizabal, Mabini L. Antonio, Gabriel F. Consulta and Nestle Phils itself. For the past three years, this vital information was withheld from the Nestle employees.*

During the same period, Nestle Phils. has incurred profit amounting to PhP 8.76 billion; which means, it could afford to allot for its workers' better economic provisions. For years, we live with whatever benefits the company concedes with. But, unlike the good food we continually improve, we are deprived of a better life.

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Therefore, the call for a work stoppage has long been justified! Our grounds are humane, lawful, and constitutional. We tried resolving the conflict without antagonism, and yet, this giant investor remains inhumane and repressive. A strike is not a grave coercion, it is a right fought for decades, by great men who love justice and freedom.

To our fellow workers, and to every freedom-loving citizen, comprehend the truth and stand up for what is worth fighting for. We have nothing to loose but the chains of ignorance and injustice!

Union of Filipro Employees-Drug, Food and Allied Workers-Kilusang Mayo Uno
January 16, 2002
Cabuyao, Laguna, Philippines

BY LEONCIO BALBIN JR. AND YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—Ilocos Sur, which was thrust into the limelight during the preliminaries of the people's uprising that led to the ouster of Joseph Estrada from the presidency last year, will hold two sets of celebration of the Edsa II anniversary this week.

The first celebration will honor former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's contribution to the uprising that toppled Estrada, while the other will be spearheaded by Singson's critics led by the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa).

A six-day celebration led by the provincial government started Wednesday through a photo exhibition of Edsa II images at the provincial capitol.

The celebration will culminate on Monday with a "People's Day" at the capitol where Singson is expected to attend.

"What Governor Singson has done makes us all Ilocanos proud," said Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano, referring to Singson's role in exposing Estrada's alleged involvement in illegal gambling and corruption.

Earlier, President Macapagal-Arroyo called Singson the "Father of Edsa II."

Singson said he felt humbled by the recognition bestowed on him by Ms Macapagal, the biggest benefactor of Edsa II.

"Modesty aside, it was I who started it all that led to the successful Edsa II," Singson told the INQUIRER.

But it will not be all pro-Singson activities in Ilocos Sur this week.

Members of Sisa, the staunchest critics of Singson, said they would commemorate Edsa II on Sunday by staging a rally to voice their fight against graft and corruption in Ilocos Sur.

The rally will also serve as a "wake-up call" to the Macapagal administration to fulfill its promises.

"It will be a rally for our continuous quest for justice and a wake-up call for the present leadership," said Nestor Segismundo, Sisa president.

Sisa filed four graft charges, including a plunder case, against Singson last year.

One of the group's urgent appeals is for Ms Macapagal to dissociate herself from Singson.

"We are appealing to the President to dissociate herself from Chavit because he is a liability, not an asset," Segismundo said.

Singson laughed off Sisa's appeal. *"Ano sila, sinuswerte?"* he said.

In Pangasinan, Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan Archdiocese lamented how Edsa II, then a symbol of people's unity, has become a sign of disunity because of "many political partisan antagonism, different interest groups, contrasting social perceptions and movements."

Cruz issued the statement amid reports that the groups who joined Edsa II to oust Estrada and install Ms Macapagal are spearheading protest rallies against the present administration.

Cruz, the immediate past president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said that with the way Filipinos practice democracy, "we may no longer need any enemy to destroy ourselves."

He clarified that he was not against democracy.

"But democracy does not dispense people from responsibility. (For) every right, (there must be) a corresponding obligation. The first without the other is chaos," he said.

Cruz said he does not blame Ms Macapagal for the economic situation of the country because "while she has not overturned it, she did not author it."

Only 700 attend Iloilo rally

ILOILO CITY—Many groups that gathered here to demand the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada more than a year ago did not show up in yesterday's rally to commemorate the People Power II.

Only 700 people attended the rally at the Rotary Amphitheater, quite a small number compared to the thousands that joined the protests leading to Estrada's downfall on Jan. 20 last year.

The rally was a lonely reunion, with only the militants attending. Nowhere were members of the religious, civic and business groups, as well as professionals and students, who made up the bulk of last year's protests.

Siegfred Deduro, one of the organizers of the Ilonggo Solidarity Campaign to Remove Estrada as President (I-SCRAP), said the prominent protest leaders were either too busy or had differing views on how to assess the performance of the Macapagal administration.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo was in Manila for a meeting of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Fr. Meliton Oso, one of the outspoken clerics here, was recuperating from a bout with flu.

City Councilor Vicente Gengos, one of the leaders of I-Scrap, merely issued a statement in support of the Macapagal administration, a sentiment shared by his colleagues in the city government.

Civic and business leaders were also busy preparing for the Dinagyang Festival on Jan. 20 to 27.

Despite the thin crowd, the I-Scrap and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Panay went on with the program, which was followed by a concert.

Deduro said they wanted to expose the alleged betrayal of the Macapagal administration to the cause of the People Power II. ***Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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No 'policy rift,' says Palace

(From page A1)

In the meeting, where Guingona reportedly raised his misgivings once more, the NSC decided to cut down on the number of US troops participating in the controversial "training exercises" in Western Mindanao.

"The consensus is it's still on but with some minor changes. We'll clarify if that level of (US military) personnel is necessary," Tiglao said, without however giving any figures. About 660 US troops are expected to arrive in several batches in the next few weeks.

Earlier in the day, Guingona did say the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement between the Philippines and the United States had yet to be signed.

"There is still an executive committee working on the pact. So it hasn't been signed yet," he said.

Guingona, who voted against the US military bases in 1991 and against the Visiting Forces Agreement in 1999, said on Wednesday that he had yet to be briefed on the conduct of the war games.

But Tiglao yesterday said Guingona was present during the final briefing given by the military in Malacañang last Saturday.

Tiglao said the Vice President was not left out of the decision to allow US forces to hold "training exercises" in Basilan.

Guingona "raised some issues" against the plan during the final briefing, Tiglao said, but in the end did not object.

"In that meeting he raised some issues but towards the end, he didn't make any categorical objections against Balikatan," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo reportedly took this to mean that Guingona agreed with her. "At the end of the meeting there was a consensus to approve the Department of National Defense's Mindanao Balikatan plan," Tiglao said.

New group

In the Senate, a new advocacy group organized by former Sen. Francisco Tatad held a press briefing to say the President may be impeached for treason, for allowing American combat troops into the country.

Tatad, representing Citizens' Caucus, said the presence of the US military in the country was not a product of public consultations or open negotiations, and thus in violation of the Constitution.

On the same day, Senate President Franklin Drilon sought a Senate inquiry into the ongoing RP-US military exercises in Western Mindanao,

In a press statement, Drilon said, "serious questions have been raised by various quarters about the legality of the military exercises in view of the involvement of armed American troops in pursuing Abu Sayyaf terrorists. "Drilon's resolution, which will be consolidated with a similar resolution filed by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, has been referred to the Senate committees on defense and foreign relations.

"It is important to put to rest all concerns about the presence of US troops in a war zone and their involvement in actual combat," said Drilon, who heads a slim 13-11 pro-administration majority in the Senate.

Unconstitutional?

Tiglao said the constitutionality of the exercises was brought up during the final briefing, but added that he was not sure if it was Guingona who raised the issue.

Aside from Guingona and Tiglao, others in the meeting included Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Armed Forces chief of staff Diomedio Villanueva and presidential legal counsel Avelino Cruz.

Guingona the other day said he had yet to be fully briefed about the details of the exercise, which are being determined by the DND's Mutual Defense Board. In the meantime, he hinted that the DFA could do nothing but go along with the plan.

He also said that questions about its legality should be resolved by "Congress or some other agency independent of Malacañang."

But Tiglao denied there was any policy rift between the country's two highest-ranking leaders.

"I don't know if they had private conversations, but as far as I can tell, the Vice President didn't raise any policy rift or dissension," he told the INQUIRER.

He said he was not even sure if Guingona was the one who proposed amnesty for rebel Moro leader Nur Misuari, a proposal the President immediately shot down. "It was one of the options raised. I'm not sure if he raised it," he said.

He also denied the President and the Vice President had differences regarding the US-led war on terrorism.

But he said Guingona did not hesitate to give his opinions before the President.

"He's a man of stature, too. He sometimes raises issues to (counter) check. He doesn't hesitate to raise them during meetings."

"Not all the Cabinet members are 'Yes' men," he added.

During the second NSC meeting, however, the President reportedly told Guingona that the exercises were allowed under the Visiting Forces Agreement.

"The Vice President said the assumption of the issues he raised is that, like every Filipino, he wants the Abu Sayyaf scourge ended," Tiglao said.

He later announced that a full-blown NSC meeting would be held next Wednesday.

This will include legislators from the opposition and former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos. Ramos attended yesterday's meeting, although he is not known to be part of the NSC execom.

"(We) just (want) to emphasize that this is a very transparent operation. So there will be no doubt in anyone's mind that this will be a training exercise," Tiglao said.

Secret pact

Tatad charged that the ongoing military exercises were not in accord with the Mutual Defense Treaty, the Visiting Forces Agreement or any United Nations resolution.

"Conceived in stealth and deceit, it is simply the product of a secret pact between her (Ms Macapagal) and Washington, purposely to prop her up with foreign military support in the absence of domestic support from her own people," Tatad said.

But administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said Tatad had no right to talk against US troops here.

"He is pro-bases and pro-American, then suddenly he turns anti-US? He voted, even championed, the VFA in the Senate," Arroyo said, implying that Tatad had turned anti-US only because he was now with the opposition.

Tatad warned that Mindanao might turn into another Kabul (the war-torn capital of Afghanistan) with the entry of American forces and the government's approval of their direct participation in the fight against Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"One American life lost in Basilan could start an American war there which may not end as quickly as it would have begun," he warned.

"In one deceptive and treasonous move, (the President) has succeeded in making the Philippines a virtual extension of Afghanistan," he added.

Tatad said that while he believed in strong security relations with the United States, he said the government must do the right thing the right way.

He also charged that the continued stay of the American forces represented a convergence of the national interest of the United States and Macapagal's personal ambition.

"The US obviously needs to regain its foothold in the Philippines, which is understandable and worthy of discussion. And (Macapagal) needs US support to prop her up in the absence of domestic support from her own people, which is unacceptable," he said.

A government that cannot deal with its own internal police problems has no right to claim the allegiance and support of its people, he added.

"A president, de facto or de jure, who asks a foreign military power to solve her own domestic problems and shore up her shaky political standing among her own people, commits treason, which is an impeachable offense," Tatad said.

Full facts

Drilon said he prefered to "withhold judgment on the issue because we do not have possession of the full facts of the case."

"The involvement of American soldiers in the Abu Sayyaf campaign has direct implications on the capability of the Philippine Armed Forces to quell rebellion and terrorism and on the role of the US in the country's internal affairs."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. chairs the defense committee while Sen. Blas Ople heads the foreign relations committee. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

GMA talks with former Edsa allies

(From page A1)

But he said Ms Macapagal had committed to resume peace talks with the National Democratic Front and implement previous agreements reached by the government and NDF peace panels.

Ocampo, a former spokesperson for the NDF, said the President had also formed a group to work for the immediate release of 36 political prisoners whose release she approved last December.

"She thought that the prisoners were going to be released before Jan. 20, the anniversary of the victory of People Power II, but we told her that there were many bottlenecks at the Department of Justice," Ocampo told a news conference at the Bayan office in Quezon City.

"We told her there was still time to beat the Jan. 20 date, so she formed a group that will coordinate with Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to expedite the release, hopefully before Sunday," he said.

As part of her reaching out to her allies and critics, the President hosted the meeting for Ocampo, the two other Bayan Muna representatives—Liza Maza and Crispin Beltran—and Bayan chair, vice president and secretary general Rafael Mariano, Carol Araullo and Teodoro Casiño, Karapatan chair Marie Hilao Enriquez, and Kilusang Mayo Uno secretary general Elmer Labog.

Speaker Jose de Venecia and Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman were also present.

The breakfast consisted of poached egg, *tocino* and garlic rice.

The resumption of the stalled peace talks and the release of the political prisoners were among the demands submitted by the militant leaders at the meeting.

The others are the pullout of US troops and military advisers, stop to militarization in the countryside, prosecution of deposed President Joseph Estrada, return of the coconut levy funds to farmers, stop to the cassava plantation project of San Miguel Corp. in Isabela, grant of workers' P125 wage hike, moratorium on the demolition of squatter homes, and revocation of government privatization policies.

Casiño said the 10 demands—which he described as "doable" at this point—were part of the 20-point People's Agenda they submitted to Ms Macapagal after People Power II.

Continuing engagement

Ocampo said that during the meeting, the militant leaders gave "no explicit expression of support" for Ms Macapagal but assured her that they were not seeking her resignation.

He said he also told her that he would "continue to engage the government" on certain issues, including his objection to the presence of US troops and the continuation of the peace talks with the NDF.

But Ocampo said he would attend the commemoration of People Power II. Ms Macapagal will lead the anniversary rites to be held at the Edsa Shrine on Jan. 20.

"We assured the President that we are not calling for her ouster and we will not support a civilian-military junta," Casiño said. "But we stressed that Bayan and other organizations shall remain critical of her administration."

Earlier, Casiño and other militant leaders said Ms Macapagal had betrayed the spirit of People Power II.

Condemning the "political insecurity" and "Gestapo-like mentality" of the administration, Bayan yesterday said it was all systems go for the reenactment on Jan. 20 of last year's march to the Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge that preceded Estrada's departure from Malacañang.

"Ms Macapagal and her uniformed friends are the ones who desecrated the Edsa Shrine," said Bayan spokesperson Renato M. Reyes Jr. "They kept it away from the people who made People Power II possible, and made it look like Metro Manila's biggest police checkpoint. This is a public-relations disaster on the part of Ms Macapagal. She wanted to celebrate people power without the people."

Private place

Explaining the deployment of heavily armed soldiers and policemen at the Edsa Shrine, Rigoberto Tiglao said authorities were only responding to a request by the Archdiocese of Manila to keep demonstrators away and prevent a reprise of the so-called "Edsa Tres."

"We are not casting any blame, but if there are parties to be blamed, these (pro-Estrada) groups really defiled the shrine," the President's spokesperson said in an interview over dzMM.

Tiglao said the shrine was "technically a private place" owned by the Archdiocese of Manila. He said the government could not help it if Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and other church leaders feared a recurrence of the protest actions that culminated in the Labor Day siege of the Palace.

"We cannot say on the air how the shrine was defiled, but it was really gross," Tiglao said.

Based on some media accounts, the Estrada loyalists massed at the shrine did not put up portable toilets or health and sanitation procedures during the protests that started on April 25, the day the ex-President and his son Jinggoy were arrested.

Fire hoses were later used to clean up the premises of the shrine and portions of Edsa occupied by the Estrada loyalists.

On Wednesday, anti-riot police blocked militant groups led by Bayan from marching to the Edsa Shrine.

The issue was raised at yesterday's breakfast meeting hosted by the President.

In a chance interview with Palace reporters, Ms Macapagal said: "I explained to them that the shrine is a private property and that the Church asked us not to allow rallies there."

Tiglao said that had authorities allowed Bayan and its allies to march to the shrine, other groups, particularly those critical of the administration, would also demand access.

"It's either these groups will have a free-for-all or the crowd will swell and it would be hard to control them later on," he said.

Iglesia ni Cristo

In a circular read in worship services yesterday, members of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) were advised not to join "political gatherings" or any protest action to ensure their safety.

They were told to instead pray for peace, unity and prosperity for the country.

"I'm thankful for that, and like I said in a previous forum, I'm sure that the INC will not allow itself to be used," the President told reporters.

She was referring to her earlier statement that both the INC and El Shaddai, the two religious groups that supposedly supplied warm bodies in the so-called "Edsa Tres," were not going to participate in an alleged plan by leaders identified with Estrada.to launch an "Edsa IV" uprising.

"I have great trust in Ka Erdie, and that's the proof," the President said of INC executive minister Eraño Manalo. "What I can say of the INC is that it wants to help the government. It wants peace, and, if possible, it wants all sectors from Edsa II and Edsa III to unite."

Tiglao said in a radio interview that an uprising at this time was sure to fail because there were no major issues that could inflame and mobilize the people against the government.

"The assessment of the intelligence community is that there is really no issue, unlike last May when Estrada was put in jail," Tiglao said.

Temporary ban

Fr. Anton Pascual of the ministry for social services of the Archdiocese of Manila said the ban on political rallies at the Edsa Shrine was temporary.

"We hear of talk about a coup attempt, and this (ban) is a preventive (step)," Pascual said over radio station dzMM. "To avoid that, let us pray and avoid rallies with political undertones."

He also said the priests and bishops in Metro Manila "agreed that the celebration of the first year of Edsa II should be done peacefully and prayerfully so that we can avoid untoward incidents."

Pascual assured the people that the ban would be lifted when the coup rumors had subsided.

"Anyway, (the anniversary rites) will be done yearly," he said. "There will be more celebrations. In later years, when the environment is peaceful and there are no more rumors, we can have a more lively celebration of People Power II."

Pascual also said the ban did not cover other areas of Edsa, and the people could freely express their views there.

But complaints continued to be aired.

"We are saddened by what happened (on Wednesday), said Bayan Muna Congressman Beltran. "The spirit of Edsa should be relived and celebrations need not be marred by this massive deployment of police and military personnel."

Pastor Saycon of the Council for Philippine Affairs said the ban could be construed as curtailment of freedom. "We are not demonstrating but merely commemorating," he said.

Sanlakas said the ban effectively "recreated Edsa and the shrine from being symbols of democracy to being symbols of GMA's politics, elite rule and hypocrisy." *With reports from Armand N. Nocum; Andrea T. Echavez, contributor*

They're still raring . . .

(From page A1)

"They tear-gassed us and trampled upon me. I was screaming for my children . . . But we are no longer afraid," Lozada told Reuters in an interview in her shack at Parola district, a slum colony hugging the banks of the heavily polluted Pasig River, which winds through Manila.

Her comments are testimony that although last year's ouster of Estrada has been called a "people power" revolution, most of the people of the country may have been bypassed.

In those few days in January last year, hundreds of thousands gathered on Edsa to insist on Estrada's removal from office. But they were mostly from Manila's middle and upper classes, against some 30 million poor in the country, 40 percent of the population.

The May 1 storming of the Palace has instead been described as the "revolt of the masses." Although repulsed by troops, it marked the first time that people at the rock bottom of Philippine society had directly attacked the seat of government.

It stunned President Macapagal-Arroyo and gave the masses a taste of power, an awareness that they could rattle the foundations of government to effect change.

Lozada, a laundrywoman until she began to cough blood three years ago, and her family are among Metro Manila's 5 million squatters who live in grim cardboard shacks on the banks of the Pasig, along railway tracks and near garbage dumps and creeks.

Estrada's power base

Of the thousands who stormed the Palace last year, 80 percent were residents of Parola, where dwellers scratch a living as dump site scavengers, carpenters, dockhands, street peddlers or by pushing rich people's carts in markets.

They say Estrada gave them a sense of importance and hope, even if he did little to change their lives materially before his ignominious fall on Jan. 20 last year.

Now on trial for economic plunder, the former movie actor is facing either life in jail or death, if convicted. He denies any wrongdoing.

Angry at Gloria

"We have shown what we can do and we can do it again. The eyes of our people are now open," Parola labor leader Antonio Babula said.

"If we were angry at Gloria then, we are three times angrier now and we will make her feel our anger threefold the next time."

Parola residents insist their lives have worsened under Ms Macapagal. They also accuse her of tricking them into attending her rallies, so she could claim popular support, on gaudy promises that they would eventually own the land they stand on.

Twice last year, they said, Ms Macapagal drove down to Parola for a visit but stayed only on the main street and avoided the squalid ghetto, where scrawny children romp around with scrawnier dogs and tattooed men while afternoons away drinking beer or gin.

"When Erap came, he went right into our houses and even ate with us," housewife Nita Villamil said.

Growling stomachs

"Gloria should not stick with the rich because their stomachs are already full. She should pay attention to people like us whose stomachs are growling," Villamil said.

Residents say they will rally around Ms Macapagal or any other leader who shows the same concern for them as Estrada did.

"Whoever will treat us with respect, understand what we want, we will follow," Babula said.

Aware of the massive disenchantment among the poor, Ms Macapagal has re-directed some of her policies to ease their plight, launching programs for socialized housing and more jobs.

But they have had limited impact and the rage simmers from below.

"The political system has not changed. It remains imprisoned in a situation where development does not touch everyone equally," said Arnold Orbina, head of the People's Movement Against Poverty.

"We cannot avoid another explosion because the situation is getting worse."

Urban poor organizer Edwin Nacpil said the poor were ready to reassert their power but they lacked leaders to guide them.

"When the eruption comes, it will be like a volcano," he said. *Reuters*

CBCP urges people to give Gloria a chance

(From page A1)

to political and economic recovery is long and arduous," Quevedo said.

He said that after a "magnificent feat by the minority senators" at the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada, the Senate had become "an embarrassing circus."

In Sen. Joker Arroyo's opinion, "there is so much divisiveness in the country and even in the Senate that the President can't move forward."

Arroyo said he could not blame the people for expressing their disenchantment with the administration because the political opposition had been blocking the President's efforts.

He said even the minority in the Senate had been nitpicking and indolent, and would rather block than support government programs.

"Since the President asked for a stop to the fireworks in her Sona (State of the Nation Address), the minority has been acting like an overeager bridegroom who cannot wait for the first wedding night. It's all divisiveness," Arroyo lamented.

But Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said the administration was lacking in performance.

He said it had yet to fare well in moral governance, transparency and accountability.

The President, however, appears to be on a charm blitz, making two consecutive visits to urban poor areas Wednesday night and yesterday morning.

Main reasons

Archbishop Quevedo said the reasons for the administration's present problems included "questionable decisions involving the Cabinet and policies."

But he said the main reasons were:

- A level of popular expectation that no government could fulfill.
- Disunity in the Senate.
- Non-government organizations (NGOs) that have always had their own alternative political program and agenda, "no matter what government may be in power."

Quevedo said that after People Power II, there was a general feeling among the people that "the poor will be better off."

"This is not happening. And so there is great disillusionment. But the expectations are unrealistic," he said.

He asked the people to be patient, saying that any "substantive recovery, given the regional and international situation, will take at least five years."

"The best interests of the nation lie in patient work, cooperation, and in giving a chance for the new government to work," he said.

Political maneuvering

But what people find "most frustrating and tiresome" is the "inane behavior in the Senate," Quevedo said.

"Everything seems to be a game of political maneuvering," he said. "Senators are dissatisfied with the way committee assignments are allocated. They fight about leadership. They make decisions based on political loyalties."

In the process, they ignore the need for a "moratorium on political maneuvering and power games," although "the best interests of the nation require collaboration and cooperation," he said.

As for the NGOs, the archbishop said these groups had always worked for their "own interests."

"Their game is adversarial, through protest and agitation," he said. "This early, they are laying down the groundwork for toppling the new government on or before 2004." But he expressed doubt that this purported effort would succeed.

Quevedo called on the administration to "decide always for the common good, with a preferential option for the poor."

"It must remove deadwood in its ranks and shelve even the high and the mighty whose reputations are tainted with corruption, imagined or real," he said.

He also urged the administration to pursue the plunder charges against Estrada and act quickly on graft and corruption cases.

Chummy

To disprove those criticizing her supposedly aloof stance, the President yesterday showed she could also be chummy with the masses by visiting the homes of her golf caddie and "umbrella girl" in a slum area in Mandaluyong City.

As curious neighbors crowded outside, the President gaily chatted with caddie Pedro "Dondon" Aborde Jr. and umbrella girl Liberty Galvez and their families in their homes at Isla de Cocomo in Barangay Mauway.

Aborde and Galvez, who work for the President when she plays at the nearby Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, thanked her for the visit and respectfully answered all her questions about their condition.

The President left after several minutes and walked down the narrow alley to shake hands with smiling residents.

For the visit, she got an unexpected bonus: winning over Aborde's sister, Helen, who happened to be one of the area leaders of the People's Movement Against Poverty, the pro-Estrada group that led last year's Labor Day attack on Malacañang.

In a letter, Helen said she was now convinced that the President was working for the poor.

Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad said the other day that the President's allies were turned off, not by her performance, but by her leadership style.

He said she appeared "cold and distant" and advised her to work on her "emotional leadership."

Ms Macapagal decided to visit her caddie and umbrella girl while playing golf last Sunday, she told reporters later in an ambush interview.

She said the idea came to her while she was talking to Aborde and Galvez about the first anniversary of People Power II. Since she was visiting urban poor communities to mark her first year in office, she thought of visiting their homes.

"I want to visit the people (who play a part) in my daily life," she said.

The President said Aborde and Galvez did not ask help from her because they were earning well on their own. She said she asked Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, who had accompanied her on the visit, to put up a micro-financing program in the area.

But Galvez's mother told reporters that they did not have a chance to make a request because Abalos talked too much.

She said they were paying a P300 monthly amortization for their 18-square-meter dwelling. They started paying in 1993, and have seven years more to go.

1 ton of TNT seized . . .

(From page A1)

from Singaporean authorities about the possible presence in the Philippines of personalities connected with al-Qaida," national police spokesperson Cresencio Maralit said.

Maralit refused to give other details, saying the three were being interrogated and police operations were still continuing.

The suspects were apparently all Filipinos, he said.

"Investigators are still determining the suspects' possible links to the dreaded al-Qaida terrorist group," police said in a statement.

The explosives, consisting of 50 boxes of TNT, were powerful enough to level a block of houses, it said.

Police also seized 300 detonators and other devices.

In a statement issued last night, Director General Leandro R. Mendoza, police chief, identified the suspects as Mohamad Malagat, Alimuctan Malagat and Mualidin Malagat, who were arrested in Barangay Labangal.

The raid was conducted by joint operatives of the Intelligence Group, Task Force Sanglahi-Pentagon, Philippine Army and the Special Project Group of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission under the overall supervision of Senior Supt. Jaime Caringal.

Mendoza said the police raided the hideout after securing a search warrant from Judge Oscar P. Noel Jr. of the Municipal Branch 3 of Gen. Santos City.

Singapore recently arrested 15 people—14 Singaporean and one Malaysian—suspected of having links to al-Qaida, the group held responsible by the United States for the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Singapore released two of the suspects but detained the others for two years over an alleged plot to blow up US military personnel and other American targets in that city. *With a report from Reuters*

US senator says RP next Afghanistan

(From page A1)

ists in the Philippines," he said.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, however, has been very careful on how to characterize the growing US involvement in the Philippines because of its constitutional ban on foreign combat troops on Philippine soil.

Rumsfeld said that about 250 American military personnel were already in the Philippines and that several hundred more would eventually join them there.

"They are there for training purposes. They are there for logistics purposes. They are there for an exercise with the Philippine government," Rumsfeld said of the US military contingent already in place in the Philippines.

"The Philippines has a problem with terrorists and terrorism," he said, adding that the United States was working with the Philippine government to address the problem.

"What's taking place in the Philippines is that this is a global problem that we are addressing . . . not just in Afghanistan," he added.

Asked during the Pentagon briefing whether the US forces would advise the Philippine military in actual combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf, Rumsfeld would say only that a small number of US trainers are on patrol with local forces pursuing the terrorists.

Del Rosario

Manila's ambassador to Washington on Wednesday stressed that US troops were in the Philippines by invitation and only for joint exercises and training.

"The presence of US troops in the Philippines is not for combat purposes," Ambassador Alberto del Rosario said in a television interview.

"They are supposed to observe and assist, and in the process of doing that, yes they are armed and they may defend themselves," he said.

Del Rosario said Basilan's rugged terrain and dense forest had made the eradication of the Abu Sayyaf very difficult.

"And to cover this last mile, the United States was invited to provide help in terms of technical assistance, in terms of training," he said on the PBS program "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer."

President Macapagal-Arroyo and her US counterpart, George W. Bush, approved last November the expansion of a long-term US counter-terrorism effort in the Philippines.

Some 5,000 Philippine troops have been fighting about 1,000 Abu Sayyaf bandits for months to rescue the Burnhams and Yap, but to no avail.

Del Rosario said reported sightings indicated that the Burnhams were still alive.

"They are physically weak, they're being moved around and they are alive," he said.

Deployment

About 250 US soldiers involved in the exercise, dubbed "Kalayaan-Aguila 2002," are now stationed at the former US air base in Clark Field. An advance US team is closely working with Philippine military officials in Basilan.

A Pentagon official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the US special forces would be involved in more than just training Philippine troops. They also would be providing tactical advice and other kinds of assistance.

US intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets were likely to be used to help track Abu Sayyaf rebels in the dense jungles of Basilan, the official said.

"It's not just training on its own," the official said. "It's assistance and so it's during operations that the Philippines are conducting."

The official said US troops would not actively participate in Filipino operations—"but we can advise and train and assist."

Air Force Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, commander of US special operations in the Pacific, will head the US forces.

The Pentagon has provided fewer details on the deployment than have Philippine defense officials, for fear of arousing political sensitivities in a country that has had a long but tempestuous relationship with the US military.

The Philippines, which shut down US bases on its territory in 1992, has a mutual defense pact with the United States but its Constitution bars foreign bases, troops or facilities on Philippine soil unless covered by a treaty.

Ms Macapagal, however, brushed aside criticisms, saying the joint exercise fell within the bounds of the Constitution.

"I will weather the criticisms because in the end, if we get the Abu Sayyaf, we would be victorious," she said Wednesday.

Uphill task

According to analysts, however, the United States faces a formidable enemy in the next phase of its war on terrorism when it opens a new front on terrorism and targets the Abu Sayyaf.

Analysts said the Americans were taking a calculated risk in joining Philippine troops in combat operations because they could be ambushed or kidnapped in the Abu Sayyaf strongholds of Sulu and Basilan.

Essentially, the American troops will be restricted to military camps. Should they go out, they would be accompanied by Filipino soldiers responsible for their security.

"Of course there are no guarantees here and the Abu Sayyaf can ambush or kidnap them—that is the risk they will take and I am sure they know that," said the former head of the Philippine military intelligence service.

"They may be the targets and there is a possibility that despite the tight security, they could suffer casualties just as they suffered losses in Afghanistan," said retired Lt. Gen. Alfredo Filler.

Filler, who has studied the growth of the Abu Sayyaf over the past 10 years, said the bandits were battle-hardened, determined and resilient.

"On this basis, I am not too optimistic we should be able to eliminate this problem in six months (as initially predicted by the Philippine authorities)," he said.

The Abu Sayyaf group, with only 500 "hardcore" fighters but thousands of sympathizers in the villages, has staved off military operations against them for more than a decade spanning three Philippine presidents.

The bandits are well armed, know the jungle terrain like the back of their palms and are often ruthless with their victims.

But Philippine Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said Thursday that the Americans were prepared.

"We asked the Americans: What if something happens to one of your men? Are you willing to accept casualties? They said: 'Yes, OK, no problem. We are willing to accept casualties,'" Reyes said.

"That's part of their training."

Rex Robles, a retired Philippine Navy captain, said good leadership on the ground coupled with efficient strategic planning and effective intelligence gathering were keys to eliminating the Abu Sayyaf.

"These are basic requirements and the Philippines has failed in this aspect," Robles said. "If the Americans are not careful, so many things can happen. But they are coming here at their own risk." ***Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters***

Guingona rapped US for VFA violations

(From page A1)

firmed that the commission monitored "the deviations of the visiting US forces" last year and that a report on unilateral operations was submitted to Ms Macapagal in July 2001.

"Yes, we have informed Malacañang about these deviations from the VFA. We came up with the report and sent it to the President," Cato told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Guingona signed the document as VFAComm chair.

"It could be one of the reasons why the Vice President, who is also the secretary for foreign affairs, was kept in the dark about the conduct of the Balikatan exercises in Basilan and developments regarding the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement," the Palace source said.

The source, who is very familiar with US military operations in the country, said the report cited the unilateral flights conducted by US forces in April 2001 in Clark Air Base.

"The Americans were conducting parachute training in Clark. When the C-130 landed, the VFA representatives noticed that the plane didn't have Filipinos on board. There were also no Filipinos among the paratroopers," the source said.

Under the VFA, all training missions should be bilateral—meaning, there should be both American and Filipino participants in the exercise.

The VFAComm is tasked by the Senate, the government's treaty-ratifying body, to make sure that US forces follow the terms and conditions of their visiting privileges. The commission is under the Office of the President but holds office at the Department of Foreign Affairs headquarters in Pasay City.

"Right now, there are no VFAComm representative in Basilan to monitor the conduct of US special forces personnel there. How can the government ensure that they would not operate unilaterally?" the source said.

"The special forces are trained in covert operations," he added.

No monitors

The newly installed VFAComm executive director, Ambassador Jaime Yambao, confirmed that there were still no VFA monitors in Basilan to oversee the conduct of the US special forces there.

"We don't have them there yet but we will be sending our monitors there," Yambao said.

"That's our function under Executive Order No. 199," he added.

Incidentally, Cato, a member of the core group that worked on the VFA before it was sent to the Senate for ratification, was relieved from the VFAComm on Wednesday, just after news of the presence of US special forces in Basilan came out.

He was transferred to the DFA consular service in San Fernando, Pampanga.

"I was supposed to move out since late last year. It was only now that Ambassador Yambao became available to take over as executive director. I was only an officer-in-charge," Cato said.

"Vice President Guingona had always been supportive and I welcome the challenge of taking on consular tasks," he added.

But a source at the DFA said that Cato could have been eased out of the VFAComm to prevent any untoward strains on RP-US relations while the anti-terrorist campaign was in full swing.

Cato reportedly had a spat with a senior official at the US Embassy after he refused to allow the flight from Clark to Cebu of a US Marine F-18 fighter jet unless it was accompanied by local aircraft. The incident reportedly happened last August.

US officials have also reportedly blamed Cato for the undue publicity that surrounded a US lieutenant who went missing somewhere in the Mt. Pinatubo area also last year.

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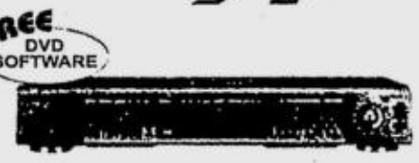
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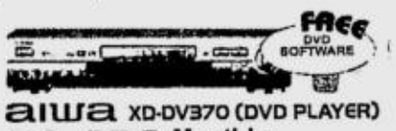
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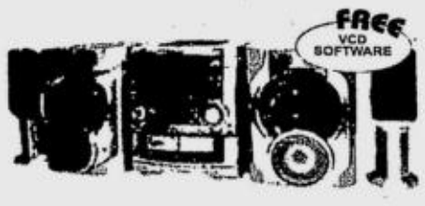
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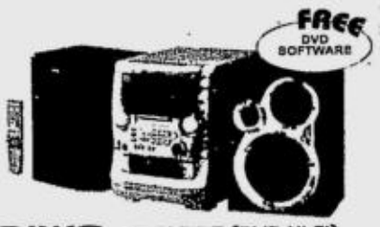
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GOLF: Inside the PGA Tour at 2 p.m. (r–4:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
US Open Official Film—1999 at 5 p.m. on ESPN
POOL: Rack 'Em Up—World Pool League Finals at 7 p.m. on ESPN

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▩ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

De La Hoya, Vargas exchange shoves

LOS ANGELES—Oscar De La Hoya and Fernando Vargas engaged in a shoving match during an often raucous news conference to formally announce their super welterweight title fight Vargas said he would provide further details about his dislike for De La Hoya after their May 4 fight. Vargas strode to the stage Wednesday at a downtown hotel accompanied by an entourage which included two associates holding championship belts aloft. *AP*

Montaña rallies, shocks Shark in overtime

BY DENNIS U. EROA

GLOWING Montaña Jewels came back from 19 points down yesterday to upstage defending champion Shark Energy Drink in overtime, 99-86, and earn a playoff for a quarterfinals slot in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The crowd yawned and looked bored when the Energy Drink Kings ripped the Jewels' defenses apart in the first three quarters, 73-54, before falling prey to a terrible case of overconfidence against an opponent trying to avoid an early ouster.

As the fans cheered in unison, Mark Macapagal, Aries Dimaunahan, Gary David and Jason Misola buried baskets in torrents as the Energy Drink Kings deteriorated in a bunch of bumbling school kids.

The loss can prove disastrous for coach Leo Austria's charges. Shark finished the double-round robin elimination with a 9-5, win-loss record in a tie with arch-rival Welcoat Paints and ICTSI-La Salle.

By virtue of a higher quotient, Welcoat emerged number one, leaving Shark and ICTSI to dispute the second semifinal berth tomorrow. The top two teams will gain the twice-to-beat incentive in the crossover semis.

Former Jose Rizal University stalwart Ariel Capus nailed down two triples in the dying minutes as Ana Freezers shocked Ateneo-Pioneer, 77-74, in the second game.

The Freezer Kings arranged a playoff with Montaña Jewels tomorrow for the sixth and last quarterfinals berth.

Montaña scored 24 fastbreak points. Ortega went out with a suspected broken nose in the second period.

Rookie Ismael Junio sent the game into overtime with two gift shots, 82-82, and Shark actually sped ahead in the extra period as Jing Rodriguez scored from under, 84-82.

But Dimaunahan triggered a blistering 11-2 run with a 12-footer which proved too much for the bewildered Energy Drink Kings.

Chester Tolomia escaped with 21 points for Shark. But he went scoreless in the final five minutes, even as Junio, Rysal Castro and Michael Robinson, bothered by the thought of a son recovering from a vehicular accident in Olongapo, all flopped.

MONTAÑA 99—Macapagal 28, David 21, Gottenbos 16, Dimaunahan 13, Mesina 9, Misola 8, Alfad 4, Zamora 0, Lim 0, Latoreno 0, Lao 0.

SHARK 86—Tolomia 21, Ybañez 15, Cole 12, Junio 10, Basillides 9, Sotto 8, Castro 4, Ortega 3, Rodriguez 2, Robinson 2.

Quarters:15-24,35-46,54-73,82-82 (reg),99-86

Ribaño: AFP should exempt Asiad athletes

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee secretary general Romy Ribaño yesterday said military operations won't be affected even if the Armed Forces of the Philippines exempts all enlisted men belonging to the national training pool.

Ribaño said about 500 of the 900 in the training pool are in the military. He called the 500 non-combatants.

"I don't think it would make a difference if they excused these athletes from training," said Ribaño. "The POC will definitely ask the AFP to exempt them especially those training for the Asian Games."

Earlier, athletics boss Go Teng Kok appealed to Navy chief Gen. Benjamin Defensor to excuse his athletes from the three-month military training.

He also said that the POC agreed with the PSC to cut down the number of athletes going to the Busan Asian Games but the Olympic body is anxious over the working budget for the Games.

Ribaño added that the 606-strong delegation—406 of them athletes—which the country sent to the 1998 Bangkok Asiad was "too big for an Asiad contingent."

"But we want to know how much are (PSC) they setting aside for the Asian Games because money is a big consideration when we discuss the size of the delegation," Ribaño said.

He said the POC executive board will meet today to talk about, among other matters, what transpired in the preliminary meeting of the Asian Games task force jointly headed by PSC chair Butch Tuason and Asiad chief of mission Tom Carrasco.

Ribaño said the RP delegation in 1998 swelled because of the team events. Some sports associations also allowed athletes to go when they shouldered their own expenses.

"There are sports which need to send athletes for political purposes, just to let their international federations know that they participated," said Ribaño. "But definitely there will be fewer athletes this time."

Guiao may drop Agustin from Red Bull

BY ROY LUARCA

CAGE fans may have seen the last of Ato Agustin in the PBA.

His role and playing time greatly diminished last year, Agustin is unlikely to be given a new contract by Batang Red Bull before the Commissioner's Cup begins on Feb. 10.

And even if he is offered one, Agustin is unlikely to accept if the amount involved "would be demeaning to his status and untainted reputation as a player."

Danny Espiritu, Agustin's agent, told the INQUIRER yesterday that the 38-year-old Agustin seems to be resigned to his departure from the league where he emerged the 1992 MVP when he was still donning the San Miguel Beer uniform.

"He (Agustin) is not even attending the team's practices and is just waiting for a new offer to come," said Espiritu. "But even if one comes up, we're not inclined to accept if it would involve a degrading amount." Batang Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao admitted Agustin may no longer be signed up.

Espiritu said the Pampanga Dragons, whom Agustin led to the MBA national title in 1998, are rebuilding and are interested in getting back Agustin to provide inspiration and leadership to the younger players when they rejoin the MBA this year.

TUBES REMOVED

Jacobs pulled out of ICU

Uichico names 30 hopefuls; Adducul leaves Batangas

BY JUNE NAVARRO

WHILE Ron Jacobs made a big step toward recovery, Jong Uichico yesterday named 30 aspirants for two training teams in preparation for the Asian Games in September.

Rommel Adducul, who missed being the top pick in the recent PBA Draft, wanted to be shipped out from the Batangas Blades to play for the Cebu Gems in the MBA, citing personal differences with the Blades' hierarchy, his agent Ed Ponceja yesterday said.

Uichico, who replaced the ailing 59-year-old Jacobs as head coach last week, picked 26 PBA players, three MBA standouts and a Fil-American out of the 37 hopefuls craving to play for flag and country.

PBA superstars Kenneth Duremdes and Ali Peek of Alaska; Danny Ildefonso, Danny Seigle and Olsen Racela of San Miguel Beer; Sta. Lucia Realty's Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino;

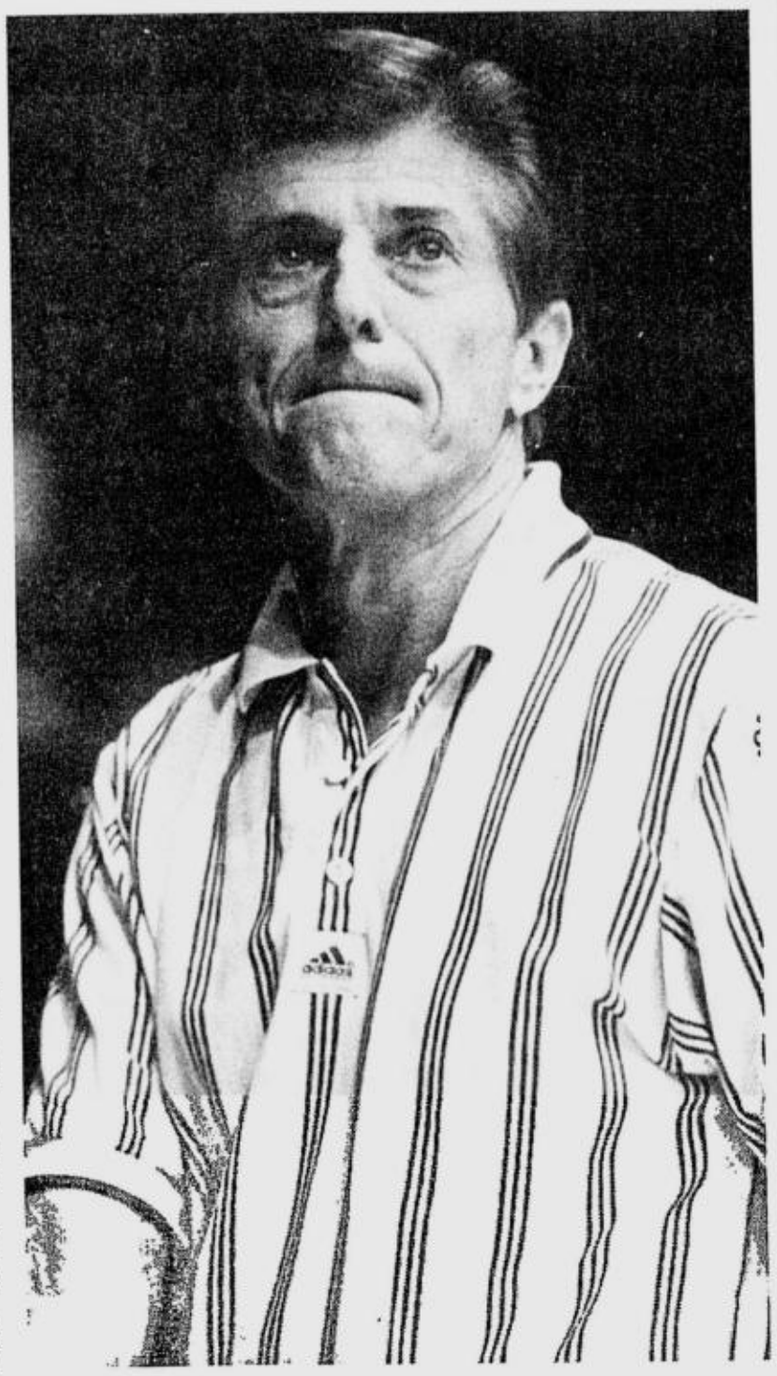
Eric Menk and EJ Feihl of Barangay Ginebra; Asi Taulava of Talk N Text; Coke's Rudy Hatfield and Edward Juinio; and Shell's Chris Jackson topped Uichico's roster.

The others are Noy Castillo, Boyet Fernandez and Andy Seigle of Purefoods; Red Bull's Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi; Don Camaso and Patrick Fran of Talk N Text; Johnny Abarrientos, Jeffrey Cariaso and Rafi Reavis of Coke; Renren Ritualo of Federal Express; SMB's Dondon Hontiveros; and Shell's Christian Calaguio.

Representing the MBA are Rommel Adducul, Cris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers while Fil-American Jimmy Alapag prides himself as the only recruit outside of the professional leagues.

During the weekend, Uichico is expected to group the aspirants into two teams.

Jacobs was transferred the other day to a private room after three weeks of treatment at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the St. Luke's Medical Center.



JACOBS: Up for therapy after three weeks. FILE PHOTO

Sampras survives; not Roddick

MELBOURNE, Australia—Pete Sampras survived the second round at the Australian Open and continued his push for a 14th Grand Slam crown as contenders continued to fall out of his path to the final.

Andy Roddick slipped and tumbled on his already injured ankle, tried to continue and then limped off court when the pain became too much, while Arnaud Clement, last year's losing finalist here, lost to Argentine Gaston Gaudio.

Already gone midway through Day 4 are nine of the top 15 men, including the top five seeds, and seven of the eight finalists from last year's majors, including all Grand Slam titlists.

Sampras, who lost the U.S. Open final to Lleyton Hewitt last September, had more trouble with his errors Thursday than he did with Juan Ignacio Chela before he beat the Argentine 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

He served most of his 12 double faults in the third set and finished with 42 errors. *AP*

8 imports return to PBA

STROTHERS

EIGHT imports, who suited up for different teams in recent years, will return in the season-opening Commissioners Cup of the 2002 PBA season on Feb. 10.

San Miguel Beer has secured the services of Lamont Strothers, a 6-foot-2 slasher who led the Beermen to twin Governors Cup titles in 1999 and 2000.

The explosive Askia Jones, the fear of many due to his killer triples, arrived yesterday and will see action for Shell. The 39-year-old Jones played for the Turbo Chargers during the 2001 Governors Cup.

The others are Damien Owens (Sta. Lucia), Derrick Brown (Purefoods), Julius Nwosu (Batang Red Bull), Bubba Wells (Ginebra), Roselle Ellis (Coke), Ira Newble (San Miguel Beer) and Lelan McDougal (Sta. Lucia).

Owens, instrumental during Sta. Lucia Realty's championship victory over San Miguel in last year's Governors Cup, will don the green and white colors of the Realtors for the third conference in a row.

While the 6-foot-4 Brown renewed his ties with the Hotdogs, Nwosu, a 6-foot-7 rebounding demon, was hired by Batang Red Bull.

Barangay Ginebra recalled former NBA veteran Wells after playing beyond expectations in the 2001 Governors Cup. Wells will be paired with David Vaugh III, a four-year NBA veteran and Memphis alum.

The Kings released their 2001 Commissioner's Cup import—Gerald Honeycutt—to Talk N Text, which up to now has yet to name a head coach.

Coke has strongly considered Ellis while Alaska and Federal Express officials said they would formally name the imports of their choice by next week.

Strothers will be partnered with Newble, 6-foot-7, while Owens pairs up with unknown McDougal for the Realtors. *June Navarro*

150 fighters join National Wushu

THE WUSHU Federation of the Philippines will hold its 2002 National Sanshou Championships tomorrow and Sunday at the fencing hall of the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City.

Around 150 fighters from 14 provinces and cities from all over the country, led by 21st Southeast Asian Games gold medalists and PSA awardees Jerome Calica and Marques Sangio, will see action in the two-day event sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission.

The participants will come from Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo, Guimaras, Bacolod, Genral Santos, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, Malabon, Baguio, Ifugao, Benguet, Mountain Province, Kalinga and Metro Manila.

Competition is expected to be fierce and exciting because sanshou means free hand combat, allowing contact between the contestants.

Tomorrow's action is set from 2 to 7 p.m. Sunday. Competition will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 7 p.m.

Jimmy Tan and WFP president Julian Camacho are the tournament directors while WFP honorary lifetime president Francis Chan chairs the jury of appeals.

Coaches of the various teams include 30 who attend a recent seminar in Baguio conducted by top Chinese mentor Yu Zhi Bo, one of the wushu's foreign coaches.

NBA RESULTS

Boston 101, New York 100; Toronto 109, Houston 103; New Jersey 111, Washington 67; Sacramento 112, Denver 107; Milwaukee 105, Indiana 100; Utah 95, Seattle 80; Portland 108, Phoenix 99; Miami 102, L.A. Lakers 96; Golden State 117, Cleveland 88. *AP*

San Pablo City hosts MP Turbo Speedfest

THE MP Turbo Speedfest goes to San Pablo City on Jan. 20 for its initial motorsports event this year with the staging of the San Pablo Fiesta Motocross.

The invitational, sponsored by Shell Advance Lubricants, MP Turbo Race & Rally Shop, BLTBCo, Fil-Estate Dev't Corp. and Speed TV, will be held in cooperation with the San Pablo City government headed by Mayor Florante Boy Aquino. Namssa, through its chair Macky Carapiet, has sanctioned the event and will ensure strict adherence to the national regulations.

The Shell-Yamaha Team led by Jovie Saulog and brothers Ernie and Jing Leongson will do battle with the Caltex Team of Glen Aguilar, Bebeth de la Cruz and Johnny Garcia. Riders from Batangas, Quezon, Cavite, Manila and host city San Pablo will go for the championships in 12 classes, including a Celebrity/VIP race where show biz personalities are expected to race.

The track was laid out in the Fil-Estate project called Villa Reverina in Barangay San Rafael, San Pablo City, along the national highway before the turn off into the city proper.

Designed by Alvin & Jerry Beech, two local riders that have been drafted by the Caltex team, the track is very user-friendly in which the novices and beginners will find easy to ride.

LA UNION CHESS
Gov. Victor Ortega of La Union Province (3rd from left) hands to Grandmaster Eugene Torre of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) the check for the organizational expenses of the 2002 La Union Open Chess Tournament next month in San Fernando City. Witnessing are (from left) NCFP Region I Coordinator Joseph Dumuk, Executive Assistant to the City Mayor of San Fernando Ramon Ortega, NCFP Secretary General Sammy Estimo and NCFP Executive Director Gene Poliarco.

SPORTSWATCH

De Roca, RFP top NCA 7-Cocker

DERBY hosts Boy Lechon de Roca and RFP banked on their superbly conditioned BL RQF RFP fighting cocks to emerge solo champion, winning the highly successful NCA 7-Cock Derby by scoring six points at the Araneta Coliseum. Close on the winner's heels was the entry Meycauyan of Mayor Eddie Alarilla which finished half a point behind at 5-1/2. Seven entries shared the next spot with five points each. These were Firefly-Thunderbird 8 and 13 of the Firefly Group, Spencer of hosts Dicky Lim and William Co, J-Cap of John Capinpin, R&B Farm II of Rep. Claude Bautista and Boyboy Roa, Geran JJM of Jung Jung Morales and PE San Pablo Heat-R & B of Pol Estrellado. The country's who's who in cockfighting took part in this blockbuster derby, a prelude to the eagerly awaited World Slasher 8-Cock International Derby on Jan. 21, 23 and 25 hosted by Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Gov. Ito Ynares and Jun Santiago of the Firefly Group. All the participants, led by the visiting American entries and other topnotch cocker-breeders from Canada, Malaysia, Japan, California, Guam and Hawaii, will be presented to the media at noon tomorrow (Saturday) at the Foodome in Cubao. "We are ready for the big event," said Johnny Philips, who teamed up with Roger Roberts and Nene Araneta in winning last year's initial leg of the two-leg World Slasher Derby with their fabulous Hatchets-Thunderbird-Firefly IV gamecocks. "I agree," echoed Bobby Jones, one of the most familiar faces in the Philippine derby scene. "I didn't travel 10,000 miles just to lose. I am here to win."

Pasay offers first derby tonite

A 4-COCK derby will be the first offering of the newly formed Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) at Pasay City Cockpit, beginning at 7 tonight. Sagupaan Super Feeds and Hammer Dewormer are the derby sponsors. The PCCA will stage five derbies which will serve as basis for selecting the Cocker of the Year 2002, according to pit manager Eric dela Rosa. Hosting tonight's event are Lito Manansala, Madison Go and Dindo and Mon Torres. More than 60 fights are in store for aficionados. For other inquiries, call 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746. Meanwhile, regular hackfights are set at PCC every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

CGU Asian Bowling begins today

THE 2001 CGU Asian Bowling Tour (CGU ABT) features the Top 16 bowlers from men's and women's divisions starting today in the Singapore's Cathay Bowl of National Service Resort and Country Club for the Grand Slam Finals. The Top 18 will be eligible for the finals. Two wild cards will come from West Asia, Khalifa S. Al Khalifa and Ahmad Shaheen, both from Qatar. ESPN will televise the event at 4 p.m. today.

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Race 5—1. Labuyo 2. Proud Spirit 3. Air Express
Race 6—1. Hollywood Park 2. Jessie James 3. Regimental Lass 4. Mahdi's Gold 5. En Carta
Race 7—1. Noble Principality 2. Timeless Beauty 3. Grace and Fortune 4. High Typhoon
Race 8—1. Adrenalin 2. Romario 3. Courage 4. Society's Pleasure
Race 9—1. Something Silver 2. Arabica 3. Tayp Ko Yan 4. Voice of Destiny 5. Strong Bird 6. Be Ready

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Ernie Rellon shot a two-under-par 70 to score a five-stroke victory over Robert Pactolerin in the P300,000 Epson Golf Classic at Villamor. Also today in 1997, Jennifer Rosales fired a final round 71 to win her fourth straight PLDT Philippine Ladies Open crown at the Manila Golf Club.

RP LADIES OPEN

Yao seizes 2-shot lead

By Jong Arcano

A YEAR after she gave up the game, Aileen Rose Yao is again enjoying every big swing and little stroke. The glow in her eyes is back and that should spell trouble for anybody who wants to take the Philippine Ladies Open away from her.

"Golf is my life. I know I can still play this game well any time, any day," said Yao after she submitted the first sub-par round of the 40th Open yesterday to grab a two-stroke advantage with 18 holes to play at the Wack Wack west course.

As jungolfer Jayvie Agojo made a disappointing plunge after a big first round show, it was the diminutive Yao's time to shine and rise to the top as the defending champion fired a two-under-par 70 with a big help from her deadly putter.

Yao, who was hit by a case of burnout and had to take a leave of absence from her studies at UCAL-Long Beach last year, gunned four birdies that included a couple of 24-footers and another from outside the green to hit the 36-hole mark at 146. She had a jittery 76 in the opening round.

The former Junior World champ still had to pull off a big save for bogey after hitting her approach into the pond below the green on the 17th to preserve the lead she built with her consistent game.

Another Fil-Chinese looking for her first major strike–Heidi Chua–was right behind Yao at 148 after her second straight 74 and balikbayan Ria Quiazon made her own move with an even-par 72 for 150 in the tourney supported by PLDT, the Philippine Sports Commission, Carlos Palanca Foundation, Nice Shot DNF, Sentry Fire & Theft Safes and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

YAO: "Golf is my life." VALHANDUMON

A foreign entry will be providing the three local frontrunners the outside threat as +3 handicapper Sarah Henderson, despite playing like blind with the pin sheet that didn't match the placements of the flag, remained within striking distance at 151. She shot a 76.

The scorching sun burned the energy out of Agojo, the Bionic Girl who led the first round. Agojo strayed her shots all the day. And when it was over, she had an 82 and was nine behind in sixth place at 157 in a tie with Tracy Locsin.

"Just didn't play well today, everything went really awful," said Agojo of her disastrous round.

Yao found herself grabbing the upper hand when she buried two birdies from no shorter than 24 feet, the first on the fourth and then again on the par-3 eighth. She left her second shot short on the ninth and took her first bogey.

With Agojo out of the way and Chua unable to get her own putting tries going, Yao banged in a tough downhill-sidehill chip for a birdie on the 11th and went to three under when she knocked in an eight-footer on the 14th.

"I'm getting back the confidence I need especially for tomorrow's important round. At least, I will be in a different situation than when I won last year," said Yao.

Yao needed to overcome a four-shot deficit after two rounds capped by a two-shot swing on the last hole to beat Hung Chin Huei of Taiwan last year also at Wack Wack west.

Pagunsan, Que head DHL-NGAP field

JUVIC Pagunsan and Angelo Que, the country's two foremost amateurs, renew their rivalry when they lead the entries of the 7th DHL-NGAP Amateur Golf Championship late this month at the north course of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna.

Angelo had won a second straight Philippine amateur trophy but Juvic got the bigger glory after he salvaged the country's lone gold medal in golf in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games.

Que didn't become part of the SEA Games team as a result of his controversial boycott.

He will be leading another formidable charge in the tourney set for Jan. 29 to Feb. 1 by the Manila Southwoods contingent which is tryng to follow up its Fil-Am win in Baguio.

Two other top favorites are in the Southwoods lineup—Jerome Delariarte and Erwin Vintuar—who teamed up with pro Noli Kempis to rule the National pro-am at the Riviera last December.

Meanwhile, the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines announced that DHL in cooperation with Wide Wide World Express is bringing in nine provincial entries to pit skills with the Metro Manila bets in the 72-hole tourney open to players talent search. The DHL-NGAP Amateur is one of the major events that will be used in choosing the players for the Asian Games in Busan, Korea.

For details on the championship which also features a 54-hole women's event, interested participants with handicap indexes of 7 below for women may register at NGAP: tel. nos. 525-6987 or 524-5160, look for Hazel or Charlyn; or at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club, tel. no. 049-549-1363, look for Fely.

Baguio women's tilt blasts off Jan. 24

BAGUIO CITY—The 27th Baguio Ladies Golf Interclub gets under way Jan. 24 at the Baguio Country Club.

Seeing action in the event are the country's top amateur ladies golf teams which will vie for honors in Classes A, B and C.

"The ladies are back. BCC once again is honored to host this annual golf tournament which is aimed at fostering friendship and sportsmanship among players representing different golf clubs," said BCC deputy general manager Anthony de Leon.

Team to beat in the premiere Class A division is defending champion Aguinaldo Golf Club which is gunning for a grand slam title, since 1997. It will also try to be the second team to be accorded that honor after Luisita Golf Club (1979-1982).

Barbie Cruz, who captured the overall individual honor last year with 113 points, is expected to lead Aguinaldo. She will be supported by Josie Untal, Yung Mi Hyun, Matet Salivio, Grace Atienza, Artie Mediana, Malou Belandres, Lily Ching, Bernie Paras and Belen Ampong the team skipper.

Host BCC and Villamor, first and second runners-up, respectively, Alabang and Sta. Elena golf clubs are up to give Aguinaldo a tough competition.

Norma Lawrence and Liza Smit, who spearheaded host BCC's victories in Class B and C, respectively, are expected to lead their teams anew.

Other noted golf clubs participating in the three-day (54-hole) tournament using the Stableford scoring format are Camp John Hay, Valley Golf, Villamor and Alabang.

Encouraging, but...

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

SPORTS should mirror society, the widely read Sports Illustrated magazine once wrote. It is unwritten, but one way to heed this call is for Filipino sports leaders to send only the best athletes to the coming Busan Asian Games because it is their responsibility and moral obligation to the public in order not to embarrass further the already badly-battered image of the country before the eyes of the world.

"*Masyado na tayong bugbog sa labanan. Nakakahiya na talaga,*" said a broken-hearted sports fan. "If we want to regain our lofty standings in the region, we should change our character and attitude. We should cut the number of athletes and officials in the delegation who treat international meets as fiestas, as a season for junkets, shopping sprees and sight-seeing."

This time, Philippine Sports Commission chair Carlos Tuason said the PSC is definitely cutting the number of athletes and officials bound for the Asian Games where the Philippines fielded a total of 606 athletes and officials." In the Asiad, the Philippines won only one gold medal, courtesy of little-known pool players Gandy Valle and Romeo Villanueva, who topped the 9-ball men's doubles billiards.

In preparation for the Busan Games, an Asiad Task Force was formed to select a lean but fighting team that will seek to surpass the lone gold won four years ago. Tuason heads the Task Force also composed of former Gintong Alay project director Michael Keon, Tom Carrasco of the triathlon association and Nestor Ilagan of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Aside from gold medal prospects in boxing, billiards, wushu, taekwondo and golf, one of the strongest potentials is athletics. At the forefront are steeplechase champion Eduardo "Vertex" Buenavista and middle distance specialist John Lozada, both gold medallists in the recent Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, where the track and field team captured nine gold medals, the most among the NSAs that competed in KL.

In Kuala Lumpur, 23-year-old Buenavista clocked 8:40.77 in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, which was faster than the 8:41 registered by Yasumi Uchitomi of Japan in winning the gold in the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games. While Lozada timed 1:49.39 in the 800 meters, which was only 2:77 seconds off the gold medal clocking of Korean Lee Jin Il in the Asiad four years ago.

"I am hopeful that if our athletes are given the proper training and exposure, we can end our 18-year gold medal drought," said flamboyant Go Teng Kok, president of the track and field association. The last time the country won the gold in athletics was in 1986 in Seoul when the now retired and presently Meycauayan councilor Lydia de Vega-Mercado achieved an unprecedented back-to-back triumph in the 100 meters. Lydia first won the century dash in 1982 in New Delhi.

In the past, the Philippines was a force to reckon with in the field of sports. Filipino athletes pulled off their most outstanding campaign in the Asian Games in the quadrennial meet's second edition hosted by Manila in 1954. They won 14 gold medals, the most by any Philippine team in Asiad history. But the Philippines is now a wash-up mainly because the athletes are not only badly trained; they are demoralized as well by the constant bickering of their leaders. As a result, many of the Philippines' Southeast Asian neighbors, including war-torn Vietnam, have already overtaken us even in the SEA Games. Ain't that a shame?

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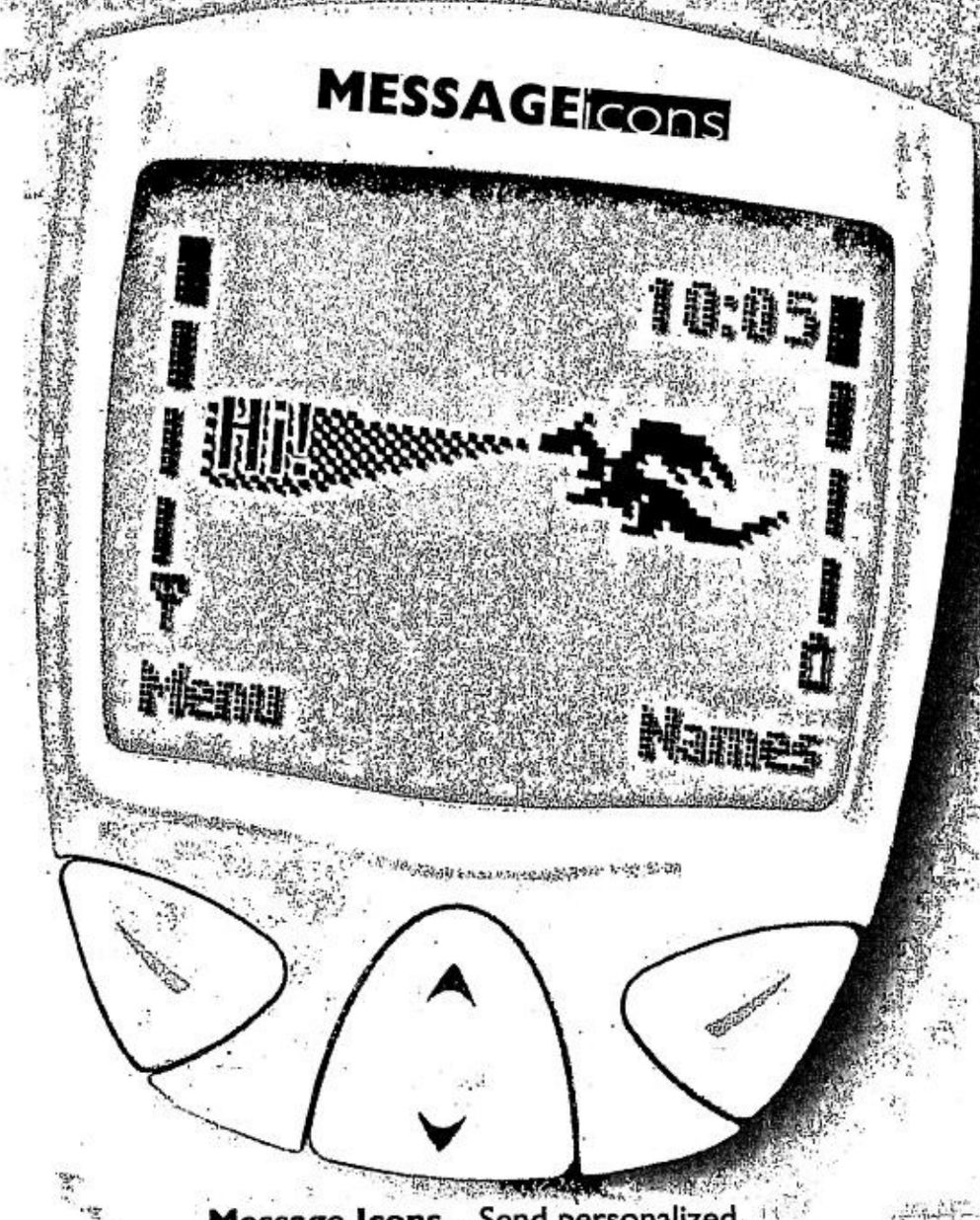

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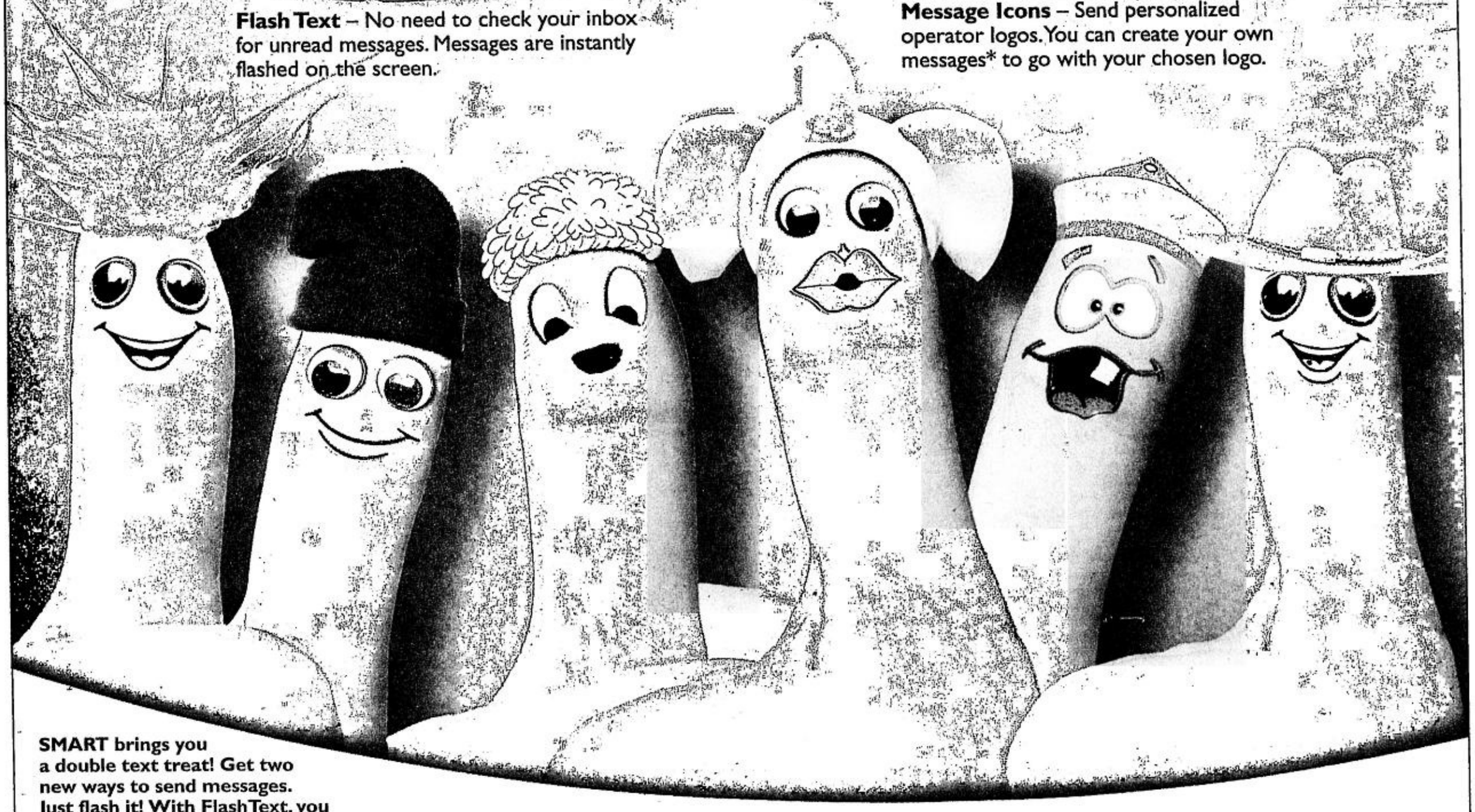

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SMART
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■ CPD official dies A22
■ ABS-CBN union members stage noise barrage A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

2 convicted, 3 cleared in Malate gang killing

BY JEROME ANING

THE MOTHER of Edwin Joseph Lopez said she was leaving to God the fate of three of the five suspects whom a judge acquitted yesterday in the killing of her son, even as two other suspects were convicted and meted 17 years imprisonment.

A teary-eyed Priscilla Lopez said nothing could bring back her son to her.

"No matter what is the outcome (of the trial), my son cannot be brought back to us," said Mrs. Lopez.

Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Pricilla Baltazar-Padilla of Branch 138 found Timothy Cashman and Niño Vergel guilty beyond reasonable doubt for the death of Edwin Joseph, who resisted when the group stole his Hyundai Starex van in Malate, Manila on Aug. 17, 1999.

Judge Padilla sentenced them from 10 to 17 years imprisonment, but spared them from a life term because both were still minors at the time the crime was committed.

Judge Padilla acquitted three of the accused—Marvin Mendoza, Bante Bansala and Eric Cayanan—based on the testimony of Allan Jalandoni, a watch-your-car-boy who was only able to positively identify Cashman and Vergel as the ones who shot dead Lopez in two police lineups.

Mrs. Lopez and Sheila, wife of Edwin Joseph, expressed disappointment over the acquittal of the three other suspects. But they said they respected the judge's decision and were glad that the ones most responsible for the death of Edwin Joseph

2 CONVICTED/ A22

Landfill opens despite opposition

BY NELSON F. FLORES

THE SANITARY landfill in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal yesterday morning began operating as a non-government organization opposing the project failed to secure a restraining order from a court in nearby San Mateo town.

Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo said the Mamamayan ng Montalban Ayaw sa Basura, led by Pastor Cruz, failed to secure a temporary restraining order from Regional Trial Court Judge Jose Reyes Jr. and to win public support in its campaign against the opening of the landfill.

Cuerpo accused the group of resorting to black propaganda.

LANDFILL/ A22

'Terror cop' arrested for slaying watchman

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

PO3 ALLAN Biol surrendered to Manila police late Wednesday afternoon claiming he shot a De La Salle University (DLSU) security guard in front of the school out of self-defense.

Biol said he only intended to fire a warning shot.

But investigators were wondering why the guard, Edgar de Guzman, 42, had a gunshot wound in the nape, showing that he was shot from the back. He also had three other gunshot wounds in the body.

His superiors turned over Biol, 35, of Comembo, Makati City, to investigators at the Western Police District headquarters on Wednesday, according to Supt. Federico Castro Jr., chief of the WPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit.

Castro said one of the two police witnesses positively identified Biol as the man who shot De Guzman, a resident of Barangay Holy Spirit in Quezon City.

Biol, of the Philippine National Police security and protection office based in Camp Crame, also in Quezon City, is assigned to a certain Cecilio Pedro, president of Hapee Toothpaste, Castro added.

He said Biol was going to fetch Pedro's son when the shooting happened around 4:50 p.m. in front of DLSU along Taft Avenue, near the McDonald's outlet.

Castro said Biol would undergo paraffin tests and investigators would also conduct a ballistic test on his cal. .45 pistol.

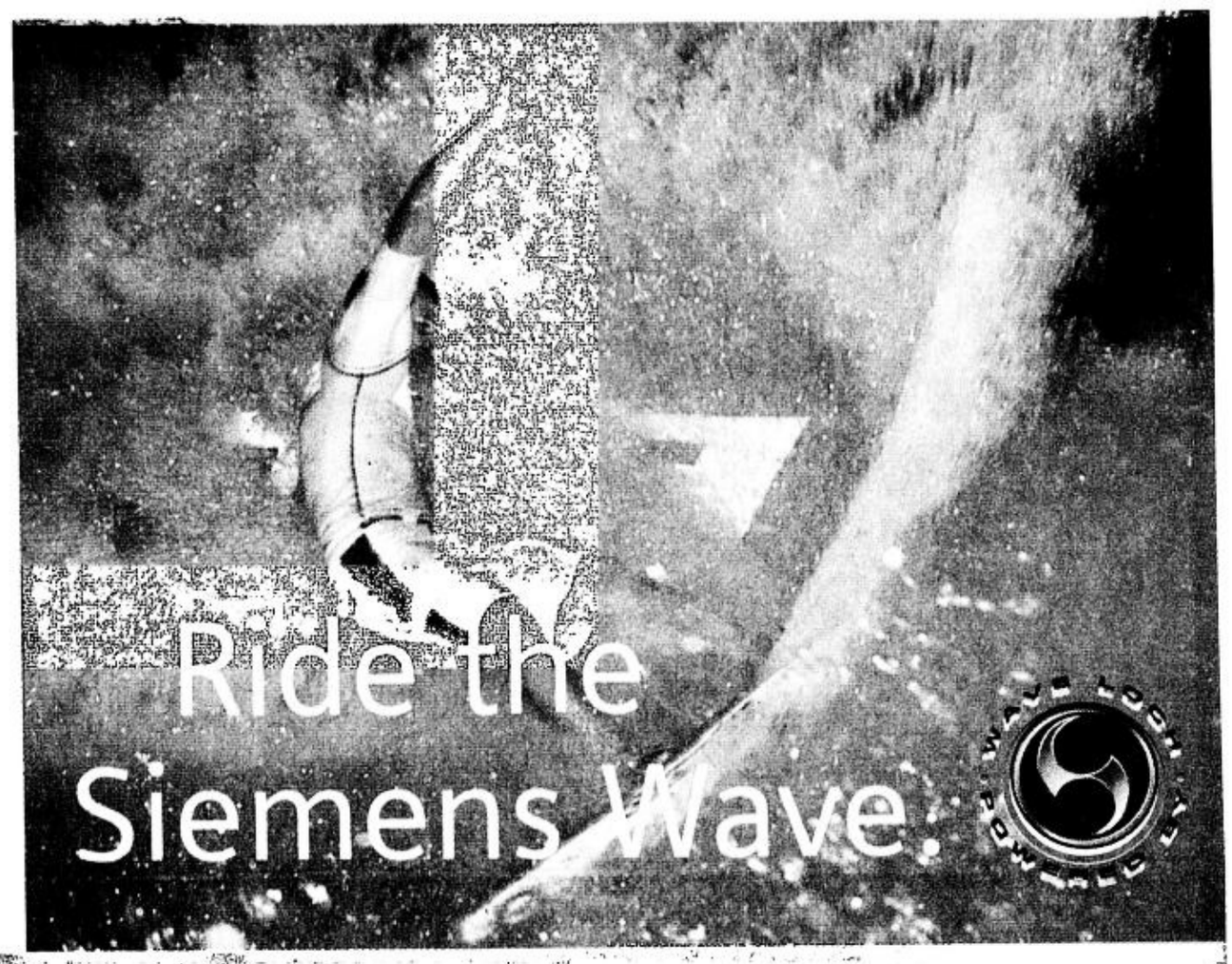
Police were supposed to charge Biol with homicide late yesterday.

Biol had arrived at DLSU in a Nissan Terrano (WEN-329), which he parked in front of the school gate, but De Guzman told him to park it somewhere else.

Biol parked the vehicle several meters away and was going to take a snack when he quarreled with the guard. He claimed that it was De Guzman who started the fight and beat him in the head, feet, and arms with a truncheon.

During the fight, Biol pulled out his pistol and fired four times, police said.

Biol said he "just beat the suspect to the draw." De Guzman's colleagues described the guard as a kind and friendly man.



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25th January (Friday)
8:30-11:00 PM Official Wave Launch
1:00-3:00 PM Int'l Surfers Exhibition/Local Surfers Training & "Bet the Wave"
4:00-6:00 PM Int'l Surfers Exhibition/Local Surfers Training & "Bet the Wave"
7:00-9:00 PM Int'l Surfers Wave Exhibition & "Funniest Ride/Best Trick Contest"
9:00-10:00 PM Special Performance by Groove Nation

26th January (Saturday)
1:00-3:00 PM Int'l Surfers Exhibition & "Bet the Wave"
4:00-6:00 PM Local Competition Elimination and Finals
7:00-9:00 PM Int'l Qualification Competitions
9:00-10:30 PM Special Performance by Mulatto Band

27th January (Sunday)
9:00-11:00 AM Riding of the Local and Foreign Surfers exhibition
1:00-3:00 PM Mixed activities of Local and Foreign Surfers & "Bet the Wave"
4:00-6:00 PM Mixed activities of Local and Foreign Surfers & "Bet the Wave"
7:00-9:00 PM Finals-Int'l Surfers Competition
9:00-10:30 PM Special Performance by Pido and Take One Band

28th January (Monday)
9:00-11:00 AM Local Surfers exhibition
1:00-3:00 PM Int'l Surfers and Local Surfers Joint Exhibition & "Bet the Wave"
4:00-6:00 PM Int'l Surfers and Local Surfers Joint Exhibition & "Bet the Wave"
7:00-8:00 PM Closing of Pro Surfers Exhibition
8:00-9:30 PM Special Performance by Hyperbeat Band
9:30 PM Foam Party

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Cowboy Grill, 1196 ARQUEZA ST., MABINI	KOOLJACKS SWEETBLOOD/PHYRIGIAN	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill, 431 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	KNIGHTS FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0965 s. 2001

Supreme Court asked to reconsider ruling on QC church

MORE than 500 members of a church in Quezon City have remained without a place of worship after the Supreme Court upheld a resolution allowing four of its directors to take control of the church and properties in Talayan, Quezon City.

In a letter protesting the church's takeover by four officers, elders of the Churches in the Lord's Recovery (CLR) all over the country asked the High Court to reconsider its resolution, saying that there was a violation of basic human rights in the loss of their place of worship and the illegal expulsion of their members.

They said that even Justice Jose A.R. Melo explained that "the court should not constrain itself with technicalities of the case."

In his 11-page dissenting opinion, Melo wrote that the issue does not merely involve the right to use the property of the church but also the expulsion of members which constitutes "a serious emotional deprivation far more damaging and prejudicial."

He noted that "the loss of opportunity to worship in a familiar surrounding is a valuable right which deserves the protection of the law."

Church leaders said a legal battle is now brewing between the Church of Quezon City and all CLR churches in Metro Manila as a result of the ruling.

The church in Quezon City is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as a nonprofit religious corporation for the administration and management of its properties, with its board of directors comprising the church's elders.

On Aug. 30, 1993, four of the six members of the board held a meeting and issued a resolution cutting off a majority of the church's members from the membership list.

The sixth member, the chairman of the board himself, and another director were not informed of the meeting, they said.

The four officers accused over 500 members of "conducting themselves in a dishonorable and improper manner injurious to the church's reputation."

Members, however, denied the accusations, saying the four simply wanted to take control of the church and those they retained were allegedly their relatives, friends and close associates.

Dead man floats in Pasig

AN UNIDENITIFIED man was found dead floating in the Pasig River in Manila late Wednesday afternoon.

The man was 30 to 35 years old, 5-foot-4 to 5-foot-5, medium built, and wearing gray shorts, said detective Diomedes A. Labarda of the Western Police District homicide section.

The man had "Jun Butiki" tattooed on his back and "Efren" on both arms. He had two stab wounds in the thighs.

Labarda said the man's body was found around 4 a.m. floating at the back of the Chino Machine shop on Bantalan Street in Bacood, Sta. Mesa.

Laborer Robert S. Manaog saw the body and, with the help of his co-workers, pulled it out of the water.

Policemen later brought the cadaver to the Sanctuary Funeral Morgue for autopsy. *Philip C. Tubeza*

CPD official dies

BY NELSON F. FLORES

THE CHIEF operations officer of the Central Police District Office died yesterday, a day after he and his driver were injured in a vehicular accident in Pasig City.

Senior Supt. Cesar Elinzano died about 8 a.m. while undergoing treatment at the Medical City in Mandaluyong City. His driver, PO1 Honorato Quintero, is still in serious condition in the same hospital.

SPO1 Sixto Paulino, Eastern Police Traffic Unit investigator, said Elinzano and Quintero were on their way to a meeting with National Capital Region Police Office Director Edgardo Aglipay when the accident happened.

Paulino said Elinzano and Quintero were on board a Nissan Sentra car (SEV 930) when the car rammed by a speeding Mitsubishi L-300 van (WLC 893) at the intersection of Julia Vargas and Rodriguez Lanuza Avenue about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Paulino said the Nissan Sentra was on Rodriguez Lanuza Avenue on its way to the Valle Verde Country Club.

The van that hit them was being driven by Ruel Libado, 33.

Libado had just come from SM Megamall when he hit the Nissan Sentra. He sustained minor injuries, Paulino said.

Paulino said charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide, serious physical injuries and damage to property have been filed against Libado before the Pasig City Prosecutor's Office.

Libado is now detained in the Pasig City Jail.

Landfill opens . . .

(From page A21)

"For instance, they spread the lie that Judge Jose Reyes Jr. had issued a TRO last Wednesday prohibiting the operation of the landfill," the mayor said.

He said that since the public did not support the NGO's campaign to stop the operation of the sanitary landfill, the group also failed to carry out its threat to prevent all garbage trucks coming from Metro Manila from reaching the landfill.

Police sources said only about 100 demonstrators tried to stop the operation of the dumpsite. Cuerpo had ordered the local police to exercise maximum restraint in dealing with demonstrators but he also told them not to hesitate in arresting those who would get violent, the sources said.

Cuerpo said the operation of the 14-hectare landfill, located in the remote, mountainous Sitio Lukutang Malaki in Barangay San Isidro, started about 9:30 a.m. The first garbage truck to dump its load at the sanitary landfill came from Las Piñas City, he said.

The mayor said Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and a number of Rizal and Metro Manila mayors attended the opening ceremony.

Cuerpo ordered the closure of an open dumpsite which Montalban was using as its garbage pit. He said the open dumpsite damaged a nearby river.

NGO leader Cruz earlier threatened to block all roads leading to the Rodriguez sanitary landfill. He said his group would not allow the MMDA to convert the town into Metro Manila's dumping site.

ABS-CBN union members stage noise barrage

ABOUT 300 ABS-CBN union members yesterday held a noise barrage to protest the scheduled retrenchment of about 150 rank and file employees this month.

The protesters, most of them rank and file employees from different departments, also conducted a motorcade around the ABS-CBN compound on Mother Ignacia Avenue in Quezon City.

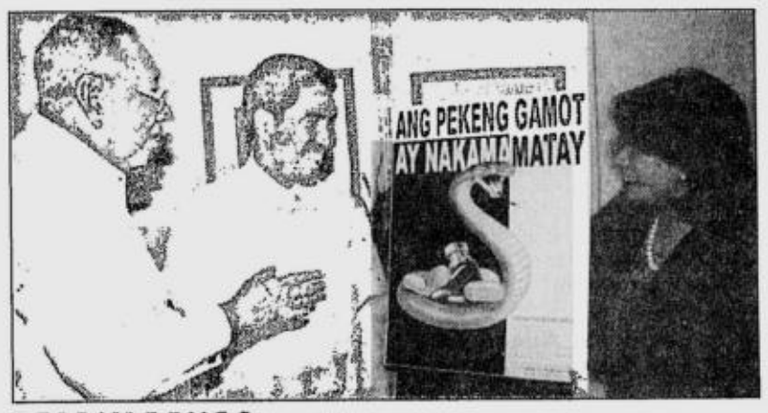
The noise barrage started about 12 noon and lasted for 30 minutes. The protesters carried placards with slogans calling for the resignation of a certain Salta. The INQUIRER learned it was Maribel Salta of the media network's human resources department.

The protesters refused to talk to reporters, saying the union would issue an official statement today.

ABS-CBN executives earlier claimed management was forced to implement the lay-off because the network was "losing money."

At least 150 employees are set to lose their jobs when the retrenchment is implemented on Jan. 27. More than 20 workers reportedly have been served their termination papers.

ABS-CBN, one of the biggest media networks in the country, has more than 5,000 employees. *Agnes E. Donato*



DEADLY DRUGS
Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit (center) launches a poster drive as part of the campaign against fake medicines. The posters are being put up in drugstores nationwide. Also part of the campaign are the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines represented by executive vice president and CEO Leo Wassmer Jr. (left). With them is Yola Menina, project representative of the the anti-counterfeit committee.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, January 18, 2002
1st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 S 8:4-7, 10-22
Gospel: Mk 2:1-12

Jesus returned to Capernaum. As the news spread that he was at home, so many people gathered that there was no longer room even outside the door. While Jesus was preaching the Word to them, some people brought a paralyzed man to him.

The four men who carried him couldn't get near Jesus because of the crowd, so they opened the roof above the room where Jesus was and, through the hole, lowered the man on his mat. When Jesus saw the faith of these people, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

Now, some teachers of the Law who were sitting there wondered within themselves, "How can he speak like this insulting God? Who can forgive sins except God?"

At once Jesus knew through his spirit what they were thinking and asked, "Why do you wonder? Is it easier to say to this paralyzed man: 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say: 'Rise, take up your mat and walk?' But now you shall know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

And he said to the paralytic, "Stand up, take up your mat and go home." The man rose and, in the sight of all those people, he took up his mat and went out. All of them were astonished and praised God saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Commentary

Those persons of great faith brought the paralytic to Jesus through the roof of the house. Jesus of Nazareth offered to restore health from the root of each person's well being, his or her relationship with God. Both Jesus, now revealed as the "Son of Man," and these courageous friends of the paralytic man are focused on that man in need. And together, the trust of humans and the power of God make the miracle. The man has reestablished his relationship with God; freed from sin he recovered his physical strength.

We should imitate the holistic approach of Jesus in dealing with people. To get up, take the mat and walk away we need not only a doctor's clearance but also the grace that makes a heart smile and a mind have vision and sense of purpose.

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Thoughts on the missing GMA speech

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE was a brewing plan by this reporter to compose what could fill in for the missing speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the last Philippine Sportswriters Awards Night. That bogus ghost-writing job could've caused extra displeasure on the part of our national sports officials. Happily, I was beaten to the punch, so to say, by an eager expert in the person of Dr. Aparicio Mequi, president of the Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc. Please share his observations:

***

"Traditionally, the President of the Republic, starting way back in the Marcos era, attends the PSA Awards Night and announces significant policies of government in support of sports development. This did not happen this year. It was the first time in the history of the PSA awards that no presidential message was delivered appropriate for the occasion. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was reported to have dropped by but she left immediately without saying any word to the audience.

"Did the President herself see no need for an official message?

"Since the advent of the present government, there was no significant achievement in sports which the administration can be credited for. (The) Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) (attempted) to mislead the public by calling attention to the 66 "near golds" won by our athletes in the last SEA Games, (but) this could not detract from the fact that it was the worst ever performance by the Philippines in the history of the games. The cause of the debacle in Kuala Lumpur last year can be attributed to the corrupt and incompetent PSC leadership and persistent squabbles among officers of national sports associations (NSAs).

"Clearly, then, a presidential message during the PSA awards night was expected, but was not given. Instead, the message that one gets is that the present administration doesn't consider sports a priority. This perception is affirmed by the fact that presidential first-cousin Carlos Tuason and members of the PSC board continue to keep their posts despite repeated demands for their replacement from athletes, coaches, and sports teachers. This inaction on the part of the President and the absence of any noteworthy performance in sports under the current administration may well be the reason why Her Excellency and Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao left the Holiday Inn Ballroom in a hurry without delivering any message.

***

"The PSA awards night is a long and tedious extravaganza that lasts for at least two to three hours to accommodate television sponsorship requirements. Hence, the PSA is duty-bound to select as many awardees as possible. As one sports columnist had pointed out, the PSA this year even selected a horse to receive an award. No, there was no fighting cock picked out for a similar honor. A PDI reader (Opinion, Dec. 27, 2001) also raised doubt on the validity of the PSA giving an award to a Filipino-American golfer, when the Japanese, for example, do not recognize the exploits of a Japanese-American ice-skater who is reaping gold medals in the Winter Olympic Games. The reader accuses us Filipinos of being too hungry for recognition that we readily want to share the honor and prestige won even by others.

"For our part, we question the recognition given to the three oil firms and the PSC. Corporate sponsorships for sports are not provided because of altruistic motives. In the case of three oil companies which are criticized for their profit-orientation and seeming lack of social concern, these three firms will welcome any opportunity that helps to create a favorable public image manifesting their support for youth development. This they get through sponsorship of athletic teams where they get good publicity and media mileage. But whatever financial support they dole out is not an extra expense on their part for, according to the law, any money contributed to sports development is tax deductible.

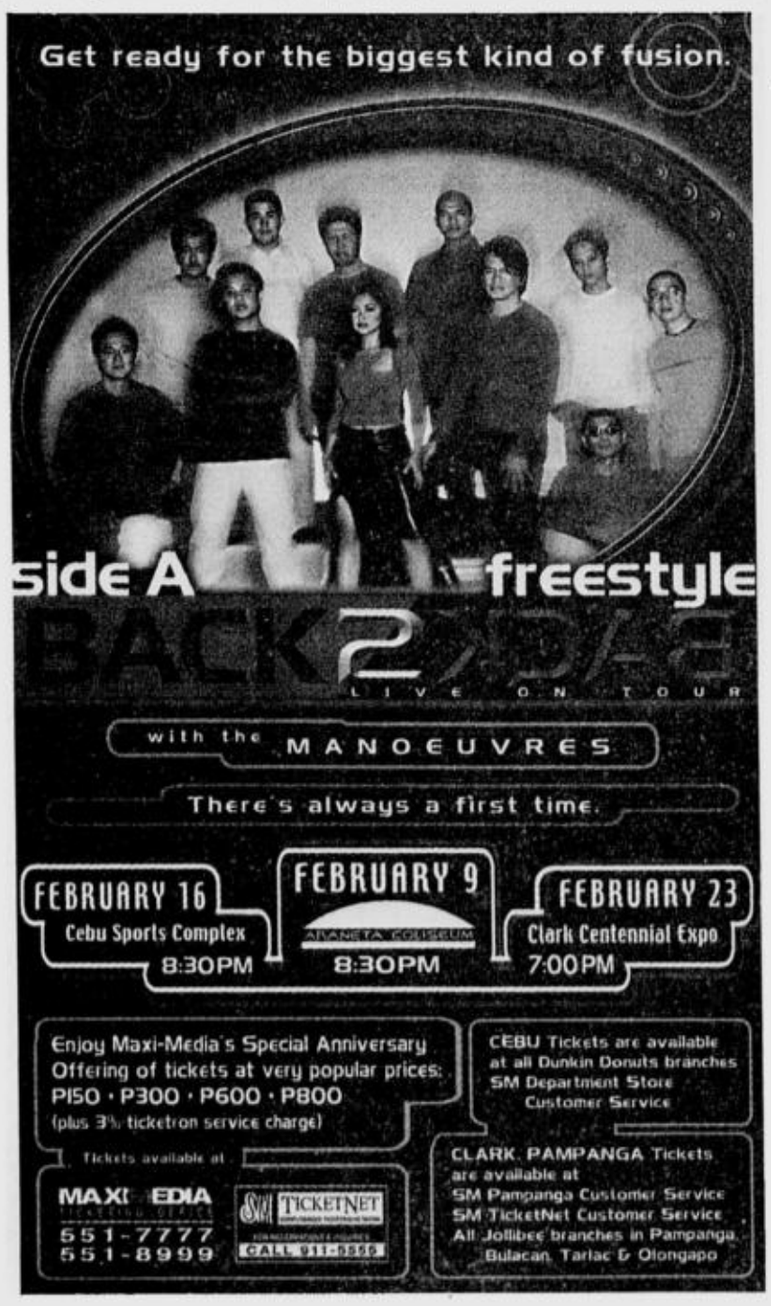
"Thus, the award given to the three oil companies is undeserved because they stand to gain substantially from their sponsorship without incurring any additional expenditure.

***

"The PSC, on the other hand, was also given an award for promoting grassroots sports through its Batang Pinoy competition for children. Success in grassroots promotion is judged on the basis of public participation and support in the last Batang Pinoy held in Bacolod. In spite of the suspension of classes for one week, the grandstands were bare of spectators and the only ones watching the games were members of the athletic delegations. And the PSC and Bacolod Congressman Monico Puentevella had to beg Secretary Raul Roco to issue a memorandum without which the games would have been cancelled for lack of participants.

"Now, why should a government agency, like the PSC, that is supposed to perform its functions be recognized for doing its job? Is it appropriate, for example, for the Philippine Medical Association to give an award to the Department of Health for launching a campaign against dengue fever?

"It's about time the PSA reviewed its criteria in selecting awardees. For example, the horses pulling calesas in Chinatown and in the provinces could be a lot worthier than Wind Blown."



2 convicted, 3 cleared in Malate . . .

(From page A21)

were found guilty.

Cashman was found to be the one who shot Lopez in the head and Vergel was the lookout.

The other accused claimed they were merely dragged into the case.

Judge Padilla also ordered the convicted duo to pay the family of Lopez P16 million, representing "loss of expected income" of Lopez, who would have earned as much had he returned to his job in the United States.

Lopez was a balikbayan when he was shot dead. He was 28. He was a distant relative of the of ABS-CBN executive Jake Almeda Lopez.

The court also ordered Cashman and Vergel to indemnify the family of Lopez P50,000; pay them P48,758 for actual damages; reimburse them P28,328 in hospital expenses and P20,000 in funeral expenses; P300,000 in moral damages and another P300,000 in exemplary damages.

Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption chief Dante Jimenez, who was present during the promulgation, blamed the police investigators for failing to strengthen their evidence against the five accused to prove a conspiracy.

"The (suspects) were friends," Jimenez said. "They were in it together so why should they not bear equal responsibility?"

But the victim's widow, Sheila, who brought along their 3-year-old son Carlos Miguel, exhorted the acquitted, especially Mendoza, "to be better persons."

"I give him and the others a second chance," she said. "Ten years from now they should look back (at) this and learn a lesson."

The young Mrs. Lopez, 30, said she and her son would be leaving for the United States soon so that they could pick up the pieces of their shattered lives.

Noli Mendoza, the father of the acquitted Mendoza, praised the decision of the judge and said he was glad they, like the Lopezes, also obtained justice. He was director of the Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau but he quit his job after his son was arrested.

He also denied that he tried to cover up his son's involvement in the killing.

Judge Padilla, who inherited the case from her predecessor, said her decision "did not rest on the weakness of the defense but on the strength of the prosecution's evidence."

RTC clerk of court Melody Consuelo told reporters that the three acquitted would be released from the Manila City Jail as soon as Judge Padilla formally issues her decision today.

Lopez was with Carmen Castillon in his Starex van (WJB-502) on the night of the killing and the theft of the vehicle. They were driving along the service road on Roxas Boulevard corner Pedro Gil Street when, at 5:30 a.m., they were blocked by a black Mazda 626.

Castillon said she got off the van but Lopez tried to fight off the suspects, who shot Lopez in the head.

Castillon had also identified Cashman as the killer, but she later changed her testimony and pointed to Claudio Daigdigan III. This, however, was discarded after it was proven that Daigdigan was not present at the crime scene.

The suspects took the van of Lopez, who was brought to the Philippine General Hospital where he died five days later, never waking up from a coma.

The suspect's Mazda was found to have been stolen from a businesswoman from Quezon City. It was later recovered in Marikina City.

Lopez's van, whose license plates were reportedly replaced with others marked "Office of the Mayor," was recovered in Vendell Farms in Amadeo, Cavite almost a week after the shooting. The Mendoza family owned the farm.

The suspects were also tagged in the rape of three young women they allegedly abducted at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex in Pasay City the same day Lopez was killed.

The women claimed they were brought to a rest house where they were gang-raped. But they escaped when car trouble distracted their abductors.

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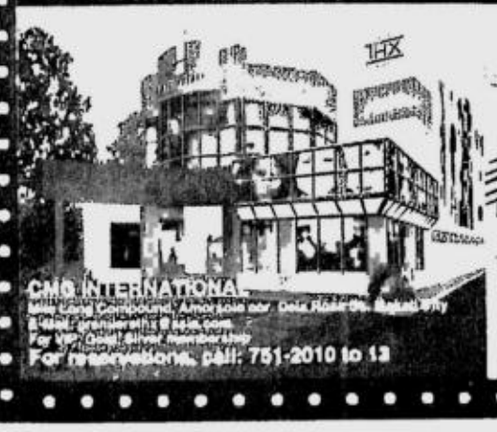

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8	BURLESK KING

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2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
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8	AMERICAN ADOBO

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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
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QUEZON-1	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR-2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
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B	BUKO PANDAN
C	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-1	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-2	BUKO PANDAN
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BURLESK KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
CINEMA-12	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-14	SPY GAME
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CINEMA-5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
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12	ON THE LINE

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Eddie Garcia endorses billiards match on TV

EDDIE Garcia is not picking billiards this late—his main sport remains to be target shooting—but he gamely endorses it and shares the rising interest for billiards worldwide.

The noted actor-director makes a pitch for the billiard tournament, "Barcelona Battle of Gold Medallists," a sports special event to air on the National Broadcasting Network (NBN) Channel 4.

The game of billiards has always been a popular neighborhood sport in the city. It is no exaggeration to say that a pool table is found in every other street corner.

The game has finally been given its overdue recognition in the legitimate sports arena, with a Filipino player claiming credit for his spectacular performance. Efren "Bata" Reyes counts among the best billiards players in the world today.

NBN is hosting a billiards match featuring four top Filipino athletes, all gold medal winners at the Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games (SEAG).

"Barcelona Battle of Gold Medallists" features Lee Van Corteza, 2001 SEAG gold medallist (9-ball competition); Warren Kiamco, 2001 SEAG gold medallist (15-ball rotation competition); Antonio Lining, 2001 gold medallist (9-ball competition); and Romeo Villanueva, 1998 Asian Games gold medallist (9-ball doubles competition).

The games will be covered live by NBN Channel 4 on Jan. 19 and 26, 7 to 9 p.m.

Main sponsor is Barcelona Brandy de España, a product of Tanduay Distilleries which Eddie is also endorsing. He took time out of his shooting schedule to plug the sports event for NBN and Barcelona Brandy de España.

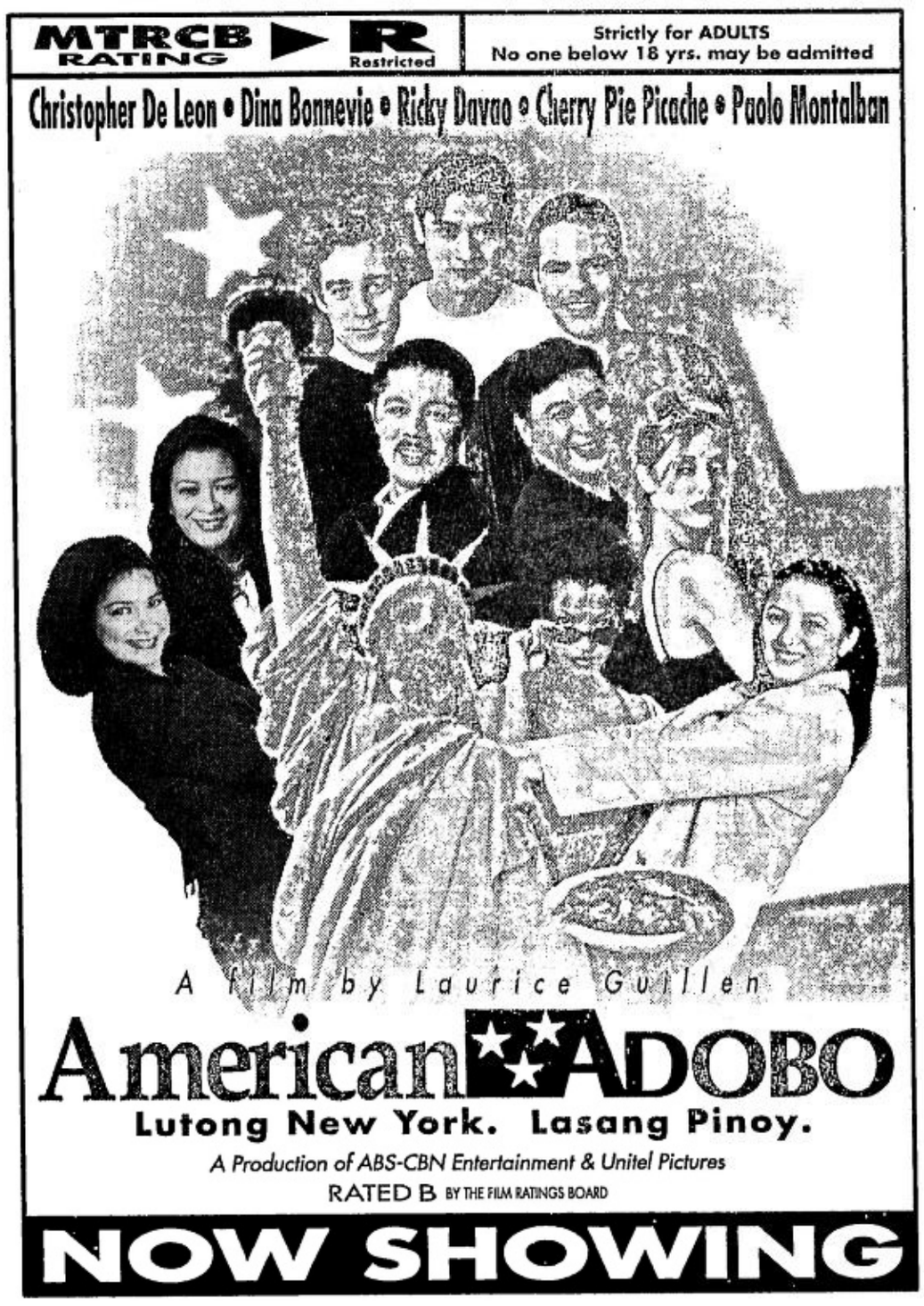
"This will kick off our sports program for the new year," said NBN president and chair Mia Concio.

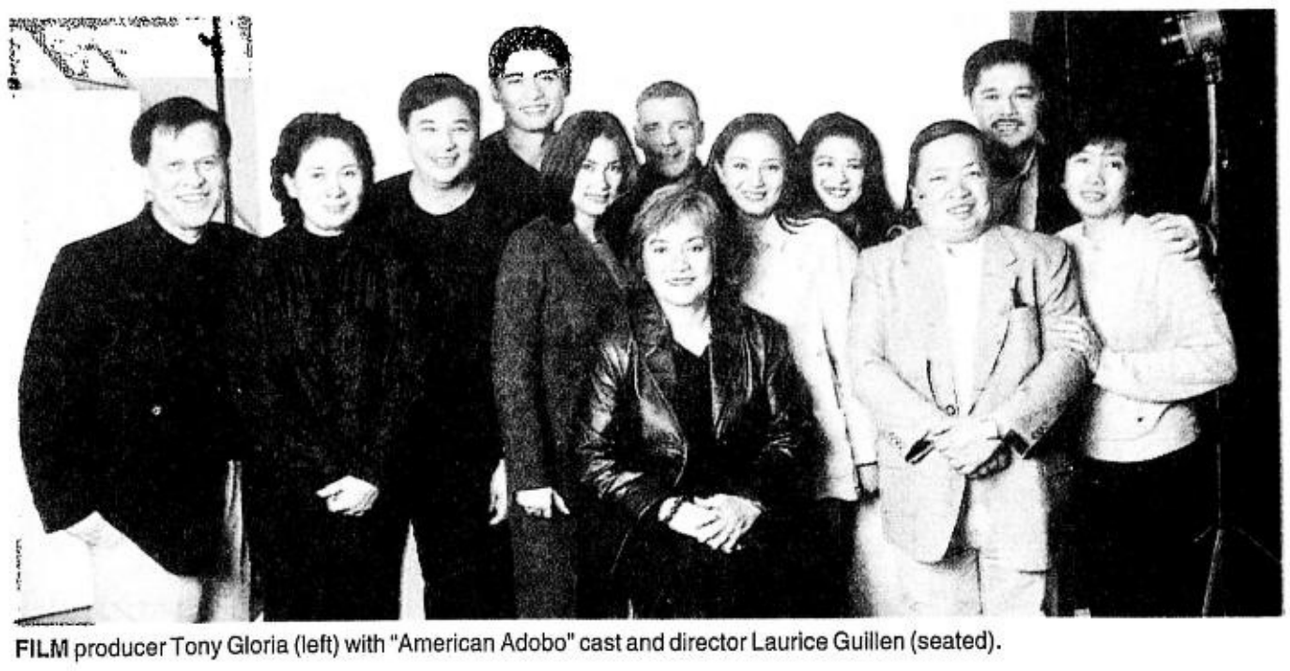
"As we promised, we're promoting NBN as a sports network aside from our focus on news and public affairs."

Following the inspired performances of Filipino athletes in billiards, the game now has considerable following.

"Billiards has placed the Philippines on the world map of spectator sports," said network general manager Joey Isabelo. "Evidently, Bata Reyes has inspired other Pinoy players in the billiards game such as Corteza, Kiamco, Lining and Villanueva who are proving their expertise in the game. These players represent a new generation of Filipino billiards champions."

EDDIE Garcia (center) with billiard champions (from left) Romeo Villanueva, Warren Kiamco and Lee Van Corteza, taking instructions from TV director Ed Finlan.





FILM producer Tony Gloria (left) with "American Adobo" cast and director Laurice Guillen (seated).

'Adobo' producer optimistic about the film's success abroad

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"AMERICAN Adobo" co-producer **Tony Gloria**, the man behind Unitel Pictures, is not a tyro when it comes to producing movies. Industry insiders are familiar with his formidable advertising background, which helped him create aggressive promo blitz for some of the memorable box-office hits in the '80s.

Back then, when films didn't get much hype, Tony pushed for trailblazing media and advertising campaigns which made huge big screen moneymakers. He helped then recording executive **Vic del Rosario** and the late **Mina Aragon** put up Viva Films.

"Vic and I were outsiders when we worked with Mina," Tony shares. "He was from recording with very good marketing skills and I was from advertising."

Tony recalls how he and Vic made a superstar out of **Sharon Cuneta.**

"I needed a teenage talent with a fresh face who could sing, for my nationwide commercial campaign of Lemo-lime," Tony shares. "Sharon was only 12 then and after the success of 'Mr. DJ' on radio, I went out looking for her. That was how I got to know Vic, who was then managing Sharon.

"When I saw her (Sharon), I immediately told Vic he has a star with Sharon. She registered so well onscreen. One day, Vic called me up when Sharon signed up for Sining Silangan for her film debut in 'Dear Heart' opposite **Gabby Concepcion**, directed by **Danny Zialcita**. We were supposed to do the advertising campaign for the movie, but the producer didn't like it."

After "Dear Heart" became a blockbuster and kicked off the highly successful Sharon-Gabby loveteam, Tony says Sharon upped her talent fee.

"Sining Silangan didn't bite the offer for her next movie. So Vic and I decided to produce it. Viva Films was born with 'P.S. I Love You.'

"I was in New York at that time, taking up a post-graduate course and Vic and I would finalize the script even at 2 a.m. Sharon was only 15 then and we didn't want a deep romance. We wanted something light."

For the succeeding Sharon starrers, it was a conscious effort on the part of Vic and Tony to make her portray only rich girl roles.

"She couldn't talk like a poor girl," he explains. "We didn't want to make her play something that she's not."

Following Sharon's blockbusters, Vic and Tony decided to capitalize on *komiks* material. They started with "Paano Ba ang Mangarap," directed by **Eddie Garcia**. Again, it heralded a box-office precedent for *komiks* novels adapted for the big screen.

"We got the gloss of Sharon's movies and made **Vilma (Santos)** the star of the film," he says. "We had many other successful projects after that.

"**Ishmael Bernal** came with 'Working Girls,' **Maryo J. de los Reyes** with 'Bagets' and **Lino Brocka** with 'Maging Akin Ka Lamang.' They all became trendsetters. With 'Bagets,' we even came out with a soundtrack album."

At that time, Tony was juggling his time between Viva Films and his work at Philippine Advertising Councilors (PAC). In the late '80s, however, he gave up filmmaking, left PAC and concentrated on commercial productions by putting up Unitel, a production house, and Optima, a post-production house. To date, he is the president and chief executive officer of both companies.

But Tony always gets drawn to film production. In 1993, he put up Filmstar Productions and bankrolled the critically acclaimed Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Gaano Kita Kamahal," the biopic of **Rolando Suclad,** directed by **Butch Perez.** The movie starred **Christopher de Leon** and **Lorna Tolentino**

Tony also produced other movies like "Barbie" with **Joey de Leon**, "Elvis and James" with Joey and **Rene Requiestas**, and "Anghel Molave" with **Phillip Salvador**.

"I really like producing movies," Tony says. "I get a different kind of high in drawing the crowd to the theaters."

After several years of being in limbo as a film producer, Tony returns to film production, this time with his Unitel Pictures, whose initial offering is **Laurice Guillen**'s "American Adobo." The film is a co-production venture with ABS-CBN Entertainment.

"American Adobo" started out as Tony's bright idea when he noted why a movie about Fil-Ams in New York has never been made in America. This challenged New York-based writer **Vincent Nebrida,** Tony's former advertising colleague who wrote the script of the movie.

"Five years ago, I attended a party hosted by a Filipino in New York and there was *adobo* on the table," Tony recalls. "I was an outsider hearing all of them talk about their career, love life and family. That was what inspired me to do a movie about Filipinos in New York.

He discussed the project with Vincent over at New York's popular Serendipity Restaurant. Two months after that, Tony received the script of "Magic Adobo," which Vincent sent to him in Manila.

"He (Vincent) told me he asked his American officemates if the script would make a good movie and they agreed," Tony says. "Two years ago, I went back to New York and Vincent and I decided to cast for the roles, but still, we didn't have the money. I took the script and looked for a major partner to invest in it."

In the US, Tony was fortunate enough to enlist **Kevin Foxe**, executive producer of the highly successful "The Blair Witch Project." Foxe gave his nod to be the executive producer of "Magic Adobo," which was later changed to "American Adobo."

Outrider Pictures, noted distributor of foreign films in the world market, also signed a contract with Unitel as the film's distributor.

In the local front, Tony approached three film studios, but it was only ABS-CBN which signified interest on the project.

"I thought ABS-CBN likes to do everything on their own so I gave the script to **Charo (Santos-Concio)** and she liked it," Tony grants. "When I got back from New York, I was told Charo was looking for me. She wanted to meet up with me and the other partners and agreed to co-produce the movie."

Starring **Christopher de Leon, Dina Bonnevie, Ricky Davao, Cherry Pie Picache** and Fil-Am actor **Paolo Montelban**, "American Adobo" was filmed entirely in New York. The cast was housed in an apartment in lower Manhattan for three months and they worked with an American production crew, with Laurice at the helm.

"I got Laurice to direct 'Adobo' because she is one of the three directors I worked with in Viva, aside from Brocka and Bernal," Tony says. "I am very fond of Laurice. She had a lot of input in the script, but the spirit of what Vincent wrote really stayed.

"The film was completed in late 2000, with a budget of only $800,000. That was when the dollar was only P40 to $. We wanted to show it last year, but decided against it after the Sept. 11 bombings. You could even see the World Trade Center towers in a scene in the movie."

"American Adobo" follows the lives of five Filipino friends who migrated to New York. It is the first local production to premiere in major cities in the US. A week after the film's regular theater run in Manila, "American Adobo" will be screened simultaneously in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The latest Laurice Guillen opus also breaks new ground because its distribution covers theatrical release in mainstream theaters all over the world, courtesy of Outrider Pictures.

"It's very hard to say how the film will fare," Tony says. "But I hope it does well even in the US. The screening in the States is very crucial because if it does well there, it gets picked up in Cannes and other countries."

After "American Adobo," Tony affirms Unitel Pictures has other projects coming up. The outfit bought the rights to "Pantasma," a finalist in the scriptwriting contest of the Film Academy Foundation. It is about a young billiard hustler who follows in the footsteps of his father, a veteran billiard player.

Tony says Vincent is working on another script about Filipinos in New York.

"For every project, we will ask stars to read for the roles," Tony informs. "We cannot compromise a star because of his name. We will be driven by materials, not by the availability of a star.

"We cannot fool around with a script. It has to have an appeal with foreign audience abroad. If we have only one good script, then we'll make only one movie a year."

Not just a sexy star

MARICAR de Mesa would have tasted solo stardom last year had she agreed to the projects offered to her. Regal Films matriarch **Lily Monteverde** eyed her to star in **Jeffrey Jeturian**'s "Tuhog" and **Maryo J. de los Reyes**' "Red Diaries."

But Maricar nixed the offers since she felt she wasn't ready for the big time.

"I believe that when you accept an offer, you should do it whole-heartedly," she says. "But I had hesitations so I guess those projects were not really meant for me."

Even if she has done sexy roles onscreen in such movies as "Katayan" and "Onsehan" (both directed by **Eugene Asis**), Maricar is not ready to go bold like other young actresses. Her most daring scene was her breast exposure in "Katayan."

"I'm not saying I won't do frontal nudity in my future movies," she says. "It really depends on the project, the story and the director. But as of now, I'm not ready to do that yet. They are pitting me against **Rica (Peralejo)**, but I don't think we do the same thing in the movies."

Maricar does not mind, however, if people refer to her as a sexy star.

"As long as I give my best and the audience appreciates what I do, that's fine with me," she maintains. "Whether you undress or not, it's how you carry yourself that matters."

Maricar does another sexy role in "Buko Pandan," the initial offering of World Arts Cinema. The movie is directed by **Uro de la Cruz**, the megman behind the recent Metro Manila Film Festival topgrosser, "Bahay ni Lola."

The box-office success of "Buko Pandan" when it opened last Wednesday, prompted World Arts Cinema to sign up Maricar for two more film projects.

On TV, Maricar is a mainstay of the GMA *tele-novela*, "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga," where she plays a *kontrabida* role. She also does comedy with the wacky caboodle of "Bubble Gang."

Among Maricar's upcoming film projects is another movie for Regal, "Huwag Mong Ubusin ang Bait Ko," as part of her 12-picture contract; and an action-drama with **Eddie Garcia**, "Codename: Black Tiger" for MMG Films.

DE MESA. Not ready to do frontal nudity on the big screen.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Bong finds latest movie a breather

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

YEAR 2001 has not been a lucky one for action star Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. He lost in the elections. He betrayed a friend and he did not make a single movie at all. The last picture he did was opposite Judy Ann Santos, the one with a long title which Bong can't even recall.

As the year of the horse ushers in, there are good signs that the movie career of the former Cavite governor maybe heading the upward direction.

He is on a comeback trail via a straight comedy offering from Viva Films, "Mahal Kita . . . Final Answer."

In the movie directed by Ike Jarlego Jr., Viva is repackaging Bong, a formula applied to Robin Padilla when he was transformed into a matinee idol for his movie with Regine Velasquez.

The poster of "Mahal Kita . . . Final Answer" shows a dashing Bong Revilla impeccably dressed in an Armani suit and without a gun in his hand. The object of his affection is the bosomy Rufa Mae Quinto whom he considers his lucky charm in the story.

Bong explains why he has to forego denim pants or military uniforms in his latest flick.

"My character is that of a rich playboy and a gambler in a story written by Mel Mendoza del Rosario. When I read the script, I instantly liked it because it was different. All my movements have to be dignified.

"It is also one movie where I don't have a single fight scene. I don't carry a gun. My bodyguard does. *Talagang nakakapanibago.* I enjoy the change of pace in my career. It's a breather, but it doesn't mean I will stop making pure action movies in the future."

Bong has nothing but praise for Rufa Mae, also his costar in the popular sitcom "Idol Ko si Kap," where he was named best comedy actor by the PMPC Star Awards for TV.

"*Napakagaling ni* Rufa Mae," Bong says. "She is the type who will do everything to please the viewers. In one scene, she was supposed to hit me with her jacket, but to everyone's surprise she even removed her shirt *hanggang naka-bra na lang siya.* It was shot on the street with many onlookers and it didn't bother her. I feel inspired working with persons who are so dedicated to their job."

Bong is also happy he was given a chance to work with director Ike Jarlego Jr. again.

"I have worked with him in the past and he is equally good and very meticulous," Bong says. "He megged Regine in 'Wanted: Perfect Mother' and it was a big hit."

The teaser trailer of "Mahal Kita . . . Final Answer" hinted a long and torrid kissing scene between Bong and Rufa Mae and true enough, there is such a scene in the movie.

Both claim, though, that they haven't engaged in torrid scenes in their previous movies.

In accepting the project, Bong quoted a friendly price to Vic del Rosario who, in turn, promised to give him a bonus if the movie becomes a blockbuster.

Bong hopes to make four movies this year, including a follow-up movie under Viva and another one for his own Imus Productions.

Free from political stress, Bong devotes quality time to his family and children. They have moved to Ayala Alabang since his children are studying at La Salle Zobel.

He and Jinggoy Estrada have yet to cross path since their friendship turned sour last year, after Bong joined the protesters in Edsa who toppled the Erap government. But Bong is thankful for the kind remark Jinggoy said when asked whether he has forgiven Bong.

"It was a wonderful gift and although there is pain in his heart, *nagpapasalamat pa rin ako sa kanya,*" Bong remarks.

Is he running for senator in 2004?

I want to be more active again in making movies was his final answer.

REVILLA JR. From action star to matinee idol in "Mahal Kita . . . Final Answer."

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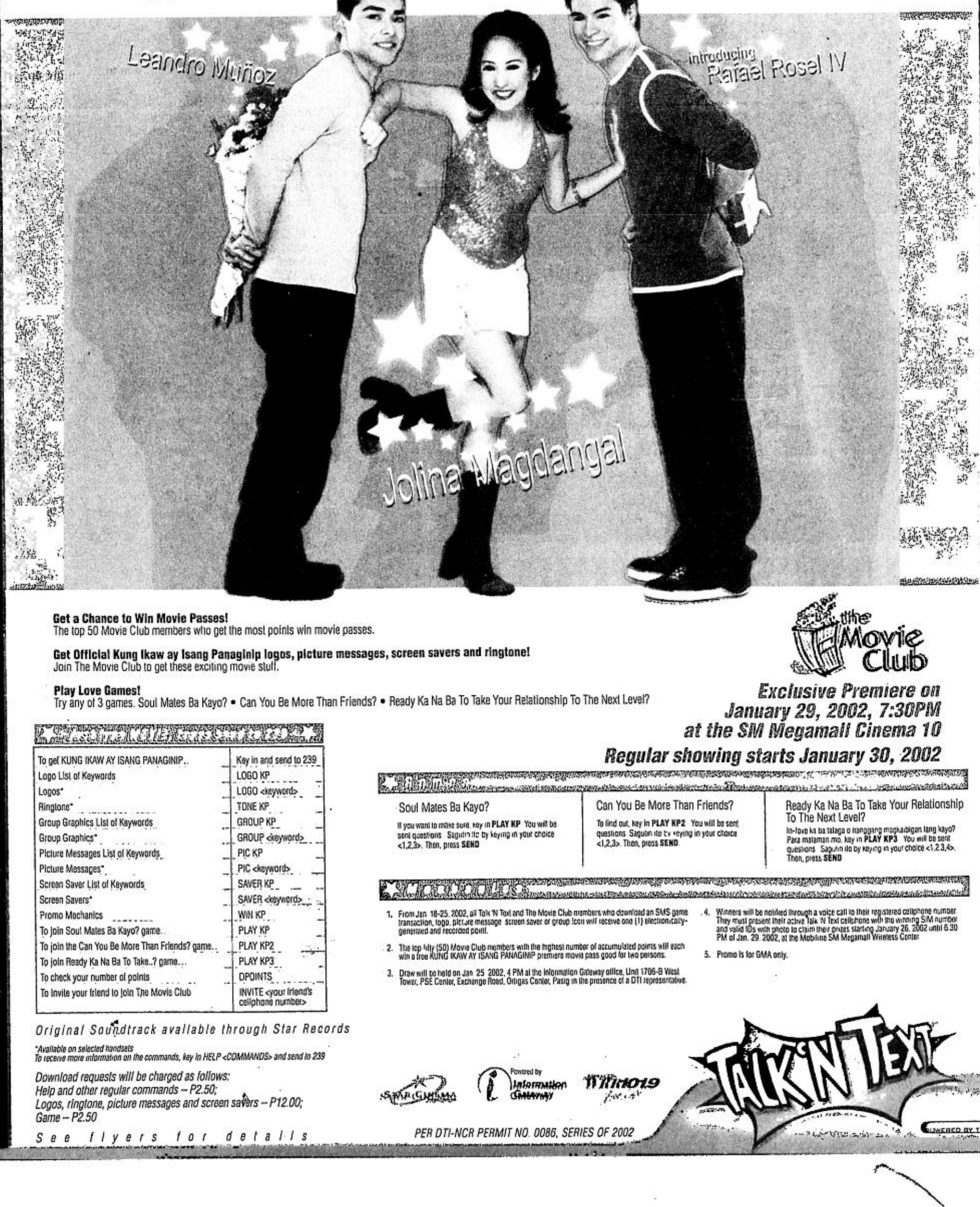

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Logos*	LOGO <keyword>
Ringtone*	TONE KP
Group Graphics List of Keywords	GROUP KP
Group Graphics*	GROUP <keyword>
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Picture Messages*	PIC <keyword>
Screen Saver List of Keywords	SAVER KP
Screen Savers*	SAVER <keyword>
Promo Mechanics	WIN KP
To join Soul Mates Ba Kayo? game..	PLAY KP
To join the Can You Be More Than Friends? game..	PLAY KP2
To join Ready Ka Na Ba To Take..? game...	PLAY KP3
To check your number of points	DPOINTS
To invite your friend to join The Movie Club	INVITE <your friend's cellphone number>

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Can You Be More Than Friends?
To find out, key in **PLAY KP2** You will be sent questions Saguin ito by keying in your choice <1,2,3>. Then, press **SEND**

Ready Ka Na Ba To Take Your Relationship To The Next Level?
Ini-love ka ba talaga o nanggang magkaibigan lang kayo? Para malaman mo, key in **PLAY KP3** You will be sent questions Saguin ito by keying in your choice <1,2,3,4>. Then, press **SEND**

1. From Jan. 18-25, 2002, all Talk 'N Text and The Movie Club members who download an SMS game transaction, logo, picture message screen saver or group icon will receive one (1) electronically-generated and recorded point.
2. The top fifty (50) Movie Club members with the highest number of accumulated points will each win a free KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP premiere movie pass good for two persons.
3. Draw will be held on Jan 25 2002, 4 PM at the Information Gateway office, Unit 1706-B West Tower, PSE Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig in the presence of a DTI representative.
4. Winners will be notified through a voice call to their registered cellphone number. They must present their active Talk 'N Text cellphone with the winning S/M number and valid IDs with photo to claim their prizes starting January 26, 2002 until 6:30 PM of Jan. 29, 2002, at the Mobiline SM Megamall Wireless Center
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Library talents pave the way for another sing-along comedy bar

IN this time and age, the cliché, "Laughter is the best medicine" still holds true.

This is perhaps the reason sing-along bars are believed to stay for a longer while.

The Library sing-along bar on M. Adriatico street in Malate continues to draw the crowd even after 16 years.

That is where the names like Allan K., Leonard Obal, Phillip Lazaro, Martin Mijares, Arnell Tamayo, Hans Mortel, La Bacci, Joyce Yadao and a lot more have displayed their flair for making people laugh.

Add to that the new crop of sing-along masters such as Al Arayata, Vice, Anton, Poca, Kim, Pooh and Teri who are the new crowd drawers in other sing-along bars.

This prompted Library owner Andrew S. de Real to come up with a new version of the Library, Comic Lab, on Jorge Bocobo street, Malate.

Host and writer Boy Abunda once said that Malate will not be the same without the Library. With the blessing and inauguration of its "twin sister" Comic Lab will be another "hit" among the regular habitues of the sing-along circuit.

Visit Comic Lab from Monday to Saturday.

LIBRARY mentor Andrew de Real.

Ogie scores new hit

POP singer-composer Ogie Alcasid has scored another major hit with his latest composition, "Ikaw Sana."

The new ballad has entered the Top 10 charts of leading FM radio stations all over the country.

Likewise, Ogie's new album, "A Better Man," from which the song has been lifted, is enjoying brisk sales.

Ogie is now busy preparing the release of the second single from the album, "Hanggang Ngayon," a duet with Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez.

The single is also the theme of Regine's upcoming starrer for Viva Films, "Hanggang Ngayon," where she stars for the first time with Richard Gomez.

"A Better Man" is released by Viva Records under Ogie's own label, Giant Music.

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CORKY ROMANO
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NICOLE KIDMAN
THE OTHERS

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"★★★★"
-Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW
"A CAPTIVATING MOVIE EXPERIENCE. ANTHONY HOPKINS CREATES A FASCINATING MYSTIQUE."
-David Sheehan, KCBS-LOS ANGELES
"A QUIETLY POWERFUL, BEAUTIFULLY BURNISHED DEPTH CHARGE OF A MOVIE."
-Jay Carr, BOSTON GLOBE
ANTHONY HOPKINS
HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CASTLE ROCK

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Thanking Our Lady of Manaoag

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I AM writing this right after a visit to the shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag in Pangasinan. My last visit there was about seven years ago.

This is one instance when I appreciate the years that have passed in between visits. There are times when I feel old for my 30 years of existence. I realized while I was gazing up at the magnificent image of Our Lady of Manaoag that it's only because my eyes have already witnessed both beauty and tragedy that I now appreciate the depth of elegance in the simplicity of the sculpting of her face.

There were nearly 40 of us in the group. We had lunch at Luisita in Tarlac. I had promised my "Game KNB" staff an authentic Kapampangan lunch, and we had a grand feast catered by my mom's favorite Tarlac caterer, Nay's. There was *kare-kare*, crispy *adobo* flakes, vegetables and ferns with *buro*, green mango and tomato salad, baked *balut*, roast chicken, *inihaw na bangus*, and *lechon*. I don't know why, but lechon from the province is always crispier and tastier than those available in Metro Manila.

Our rice was wrapped in banana leaves. For dessert we had yummy and refreshing homemade *buko*-lychee sherbet and mini *bibingka*.

Worth the journey

It takes about two hours from Luisita to Manaoag. Unfortunately for us, our pilgrimage took longer because there was a collapsed bridge en route that still hadn't been rebuilt. We had to take a circuitous route that added another 45 minutes to our travel time.

It was well worth the journey, though. Wednesday was a good day to go because we had the whole church practically to ourselves. I must commend whoever was in charge of building and maintaining the restrooms within the church complex. The restrooms were clean, well appointed, spacious and very modern.

Inside the church, along the railing that separates the altar from the pews, you could kneel on the lightly cushioned marble steps surrounding the altar. I'm quite used to the hard, wooden kneelers in Baclaran so it didn't hurt much to stay kneeling down all throughout my three rosaries. I decided to pray all three mysteries in thanksgiving for the past, the present and the future.

I must say that I was enveloped in warmth while looking at the beautiful face of Our Lady of Manaoag. This image is one of the most radiant renderings of Mary. There is so much love and compassion to be derived from looking deeply into her face.

Powerful intercession

Without meaning to be overly sentimental, my relationship with Mary has been deepened by my own personal experiences as a mother. I now understand why Mary's intercession is so powerful. As a mom, I find it nearly impossible to disappoint my son's reasonable requests. When I know that he'll derive much pleasure from my go-ahead, for as long as I know it won't do him any harm, then I gladly acquiesce.

Nothing makes me happier than hearing Josh say "Thank you, Mama" and "I love you, Mama." No joy can compare to mine when I'm holding my son's hand while walking, cradling him in my arms when he falls asleep, or receiving a hug and a kiss from him.

That's why I knew I had to make a journey, and encourage as many people I work closely with, as well as the friends I regularly pray with to join me.

Together we said our thanks for all our answered prayers. We also prayed for the well-being of our nation, our economic recovery, and our political stability. We prayed and lighted candles for our friends who couldn't join us.

I thanked Mama Mary for watching over Josh. I thanked her for blessing me with a good and loving mom, and I asked the Lord to grant my mom many more healthy years, since she'll be celebrating her 69th birthday next week.

Thanks

I thanked Our Lady that all my sisters have stable family lives, and I thanked her that my brother Noy and I had finally bridged our gap. Witnessing him interact with Josh truly warms my heart.

I prayed for her intercession in helping the moms of two of my good friends to regain their health. I prayed for more inspiration and the ability to be both fair and entertaining in my two programs. I prayed for resilience and fulfillment for all my co-workers.

I gave a special intention for the good health, both physical and emotional, of all my dear friends. I nearly filled up an entire section of the candle stand for all the people I lighted Manaoag candles for.

And I prayed that in the same way that St. Joseph was such a loving husband and adoptive father, through Mama Mary and the grace of our Lord, Josh and I would be blessed with someone like him in our lives.

Martin's 'Crossover Adventure Continues'

CONCERT King Martin Nievera opens the New Year with a big bang as he returns to the concert arena with the much-awaited sequel to his "Crossover" concert series, this time billed as "Martin Nievera: XV4Ever—The Crossover Adventure Continues," 8 p.m. on Feb. 2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The concert tour will also have performances at the Grand Ballroom of Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City on Jan. 19, La Salle Coliseum in Bacolod City on Jan. 26 and at the Freedom Ring Ampitheater at the Expo Filipino in Clark Field, Pampanga on Feb. 9.

After hitting it big with his first and second "Crossover" concert series, which literally took the live concert scene by storm during its performances in key cities around the country, Martin promises to do the same in "XV4Ever."

The much-awaited "Crossover" adventure boasts of an exciting medley of old and new songs and a more intense performance that can only come from the country's one and only Concert King.

"XV4Ever" is presented by dwBM 105.1 Crossover with 93.1 Crossover Cebu and 99.1 Crossover Bacolod.

Co-presentors for the Cebu and Manila concerts are Smart Communications, Lux Super Rich Shampoo, Zest-O Calamansi Soda, Quickchow Quickie Premium Cup Mami Hot and Spicy, Kenwood and New Advanced Cream Silk Conditioner.

Tickets to the Manila concert are priced at P1200 (Patron), P800 (Lower Box), P600 (Upper Box A), P300 (Upper Box B) and P100 (General Admission).

Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets, 105.1 Crossover Manila and at Robinson's Place Manila.

For 24-hour ticket reservations and delivery, call 844-2947 or 844-8159.

NIEVERA

Comedy of quiz-show errors

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ASIDE from our Boob-tube Booboos, another source of inadvertent humor on television has emerged: the wildly incorrect answers that some contestants give to questions asked on the quiz programs now on the local TV screen.

The incorrect answers are so many—and funny—that they deserve their own sub-group: comedy of quiz-show errors. Our first (hopefully humorous) harvest:

Host: *Saang bahagi ng mukha lumalabas ang* tears?
Contestant: *Bibig*!
(No, *mata*!)

***

Host: The term "olfactory" refers to what function?
Contestant: Speech!
(Wrong, smell!)

***

Host: If 1 is to 2, r is to _?
Contestant: 4!
(No, 8!)

***

Host: *Anong katas ng prutas ang hinahalo sa* lemon iced tea?
Contestant: Juice!
(Wrong, lemon!)

***

Host: *Sa aling* cavity *ginagamit ang* mouthwash?
Contestant: Ngipin!
(No, *bunganga*!)

***

Host: *Sa* cross-stitching, *saan sinusuot ang* thread?
Contestant: Basket weave!
(No, needle!)

***

Host: *Ano ang* capital *ng* Lithuania?
Contestant: Lithuanian!
(Wrong!)

***

Host: Give the name of the historian who wrote the history of Rome.
Contestant: Julius Caesar!
(Wrong!)

***

Host: What is the meaning of the Latin term, "in medias res"?
Contestant: Rest in peace!
(Wheee!—No, "in the middle of things.")

The worrisome thing is, all of these quiz-show errors come from just one telecast of only one quiz show. That's why some parents fret that some "educated" contestants' poor showing on quiz programs indicates the low level of education in this country.

But others counter that this conclusion is unmerited because quiz shows don't test intelligence, just the ability to know a lot of trivia on many different topics. What do *you* think?

For their part, the error-prone contestants stoutly maintain that there's nothing wrong with their brain. They just heard wrong, got rattled due to the stress of competing on a TV game show, or "*wala lang, nalito*."

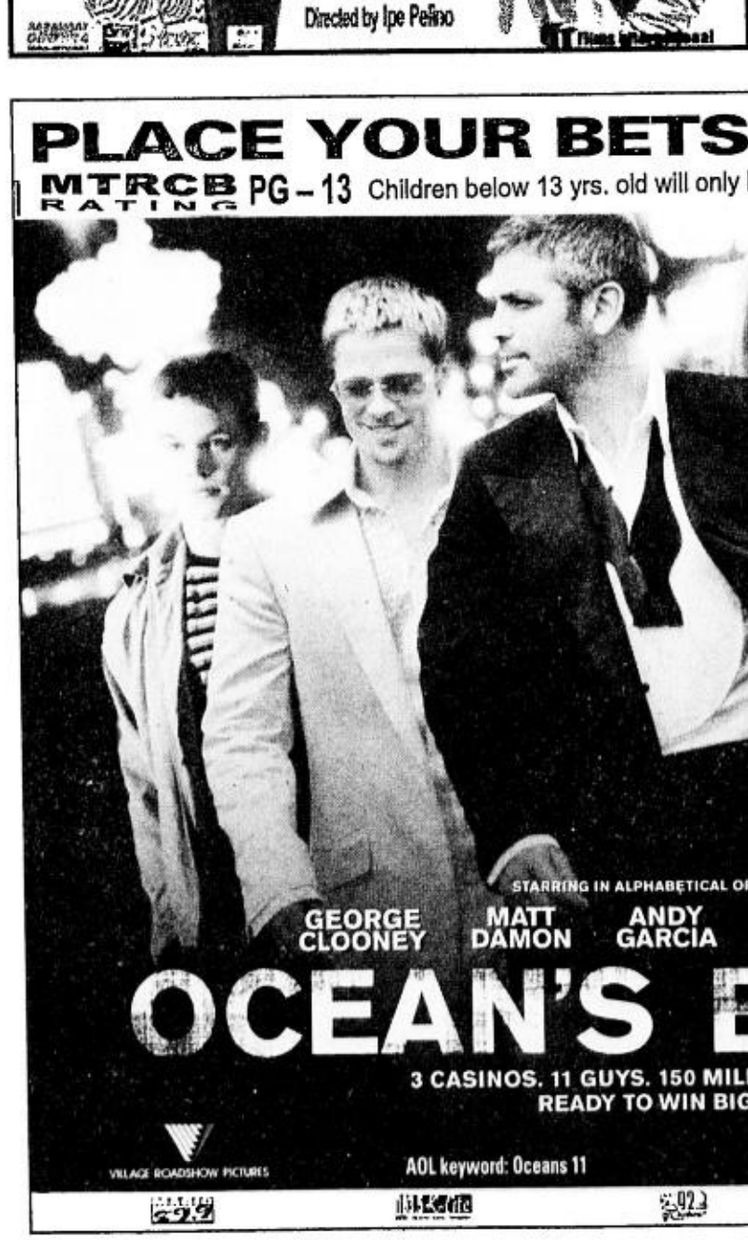
'Promises, Promises'

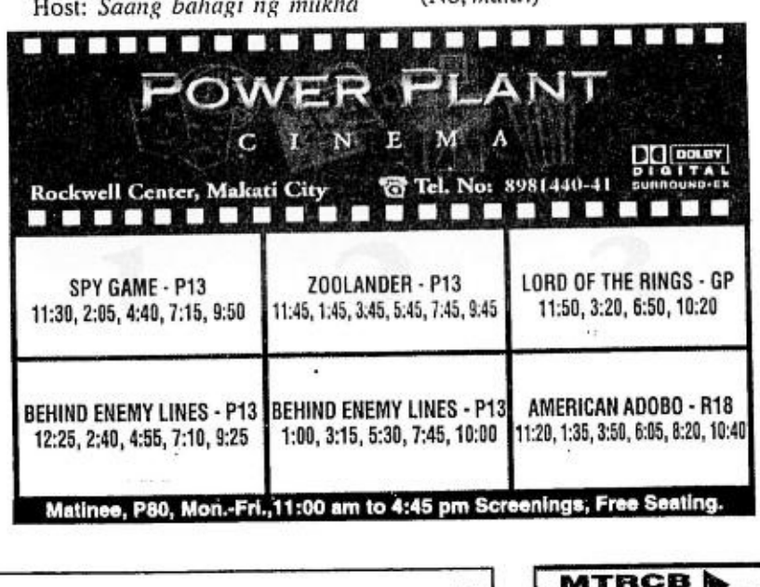
"THE '60S comedy-musical, "Promises, Promises," by **Neil Simon**, **Burt Bacharach** and **Hal David**, will be staged anew in Manila from Feb. 1 to 16 at Onstage, Greenbelt, **Bart Guingona** directing. The production stars **Rachel Alejandro**, **Lee Robin Salazar** and **Michael Williams**.

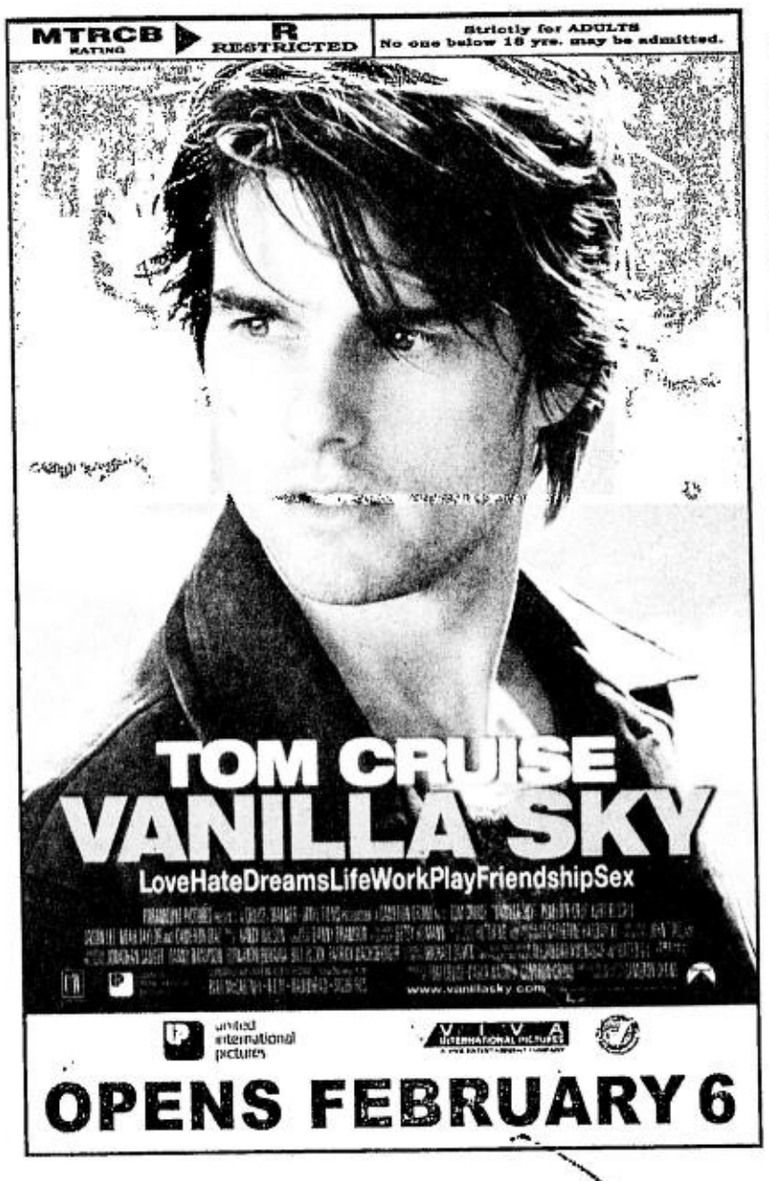
Williams plays Chuck Baxtera, a struggling accountant who will do anything to get ahead in his career—including allowing his bosses to use his apartment for some extra-marital trysts.

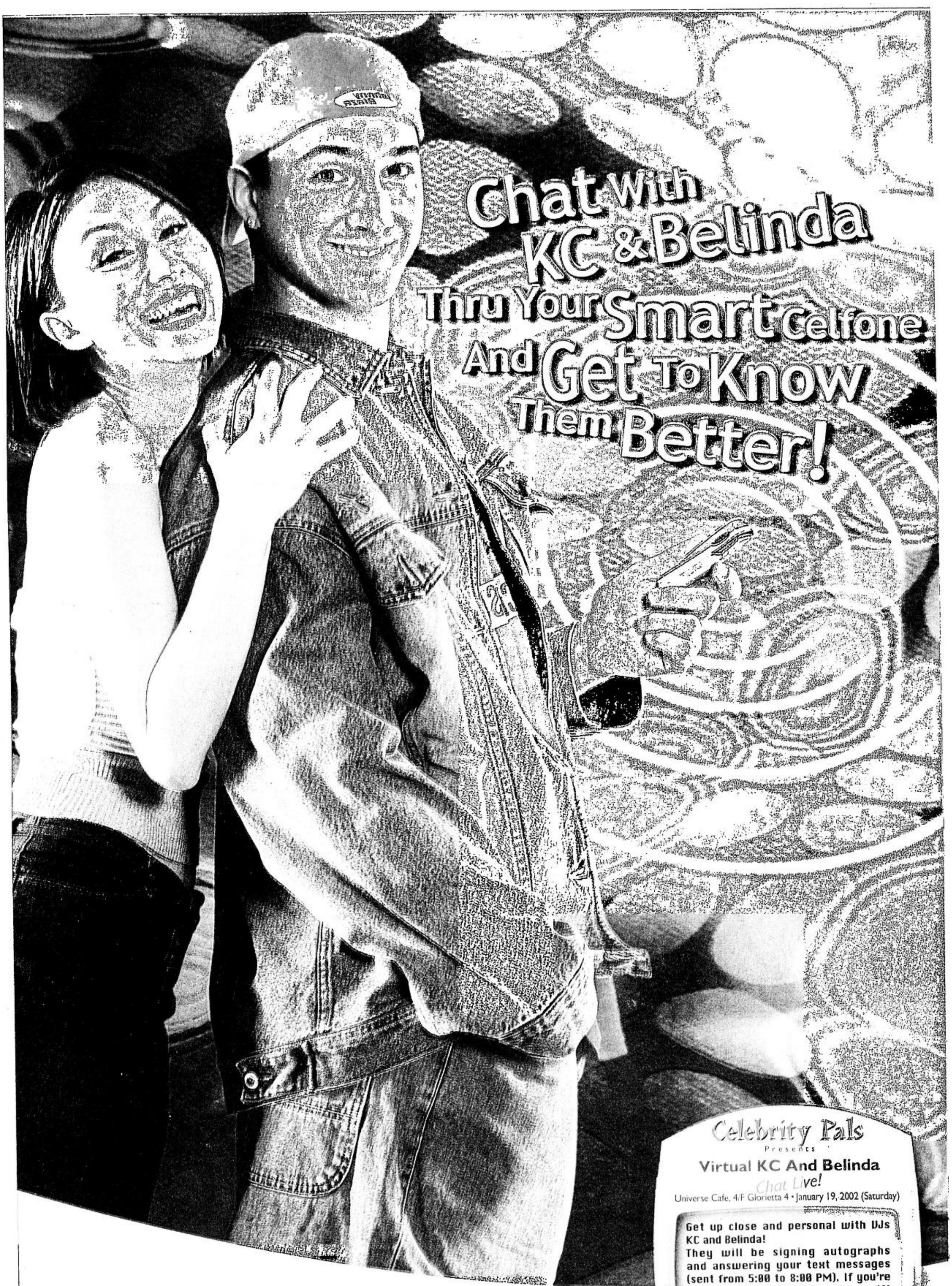
Salazar plays his randy boss, Mr. Sheldrake. As for Alejandro, she is cast as Fran, a cafeteria girl loved by Chuck, who turns out to be one of Sheldrake's flings.

The musical is enlivened by some tuneful Bacharach songs like "I'll Never Fall in Love Again" and "Knowing When to Leave." For more information on the Actors' Actors production, call 891-5610.









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BSP cuts rates, reserve requirement

INDICATORS

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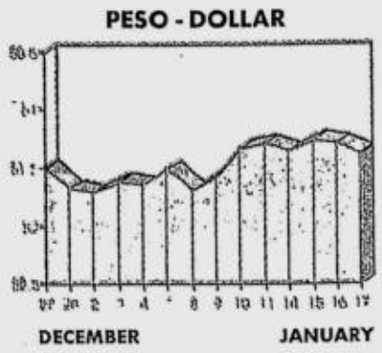


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

₱ 51.375=$1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 17, 2002

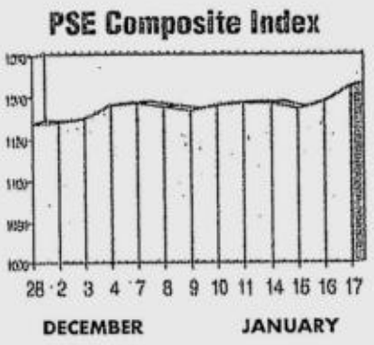
¥ 131.88 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 17, 2002

GOLD:$285.90/286.40
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 17, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares rise 1.6%

PSE Composite Index



SHARES closed higher yesterday, bolstered by buying by foreign fund managers on selected issues, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed up 19.52 points, or 1.6 percent, higher to a four-month high of 1214.10 after gaining 9.74 points Wednesday at 1194.58.

Volume fell to 842 million shares but value rose to P649 million compared with 951 million shares worth P493 million traded on Wednesday.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

AP, AFP

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday cut its overnight rates by another quarter-of-a-percentage point and reduced the bank reserve requirement by two percentage points to help spur economic growth this year.

Starting today, the central bank's overnight borrowing and lending rates would be at 7.5 percent and 9.75 percent, the lowest since September 1995.

The bank reserve requirement is now back to 16 percent, the level before the BSP tightened money supply in late July and early August last year. The move should free up about P26 billion in fresh loanable funds.

"If nothing unusual happens and inflation remains under control while other factors like wages and foreign exchange would be stable, I think there is still room for us to ease rates," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

He said that monetary authorities believed that the 5-percent inflation average for the year would be met. This month, the BSP governor said inflation could even go lower than the previous month's 3.9 percent.

The central bank chief added that monetary authorities were not expecting any pressure on the peso in the near term.

He pointed to the forthcoming inflow of the $540-million investment of Japanese brewer Kirin in San Miguel Corp. and a $200-million investment by Coca-Cola Co. in soft drink manufacturer Cosmos.

"A healthy interest rate differential should also discourage people from buying dollars just to keep them abroad," said Buenaventura who noted that local interest rates remained much higher compared with the US short-term interest rate of 1.5 percent.

The BSP chief stressed that the reduction in the bank reserve requirement was meant to make more funds available to revive the domestic economy.

"We have to be consistent with the need of the economy. We must provide ample liquidity for the government to meet its growth targets," Buenaventura explained.

However, if monetary authorities would observe that there would be excess liquidity in the system and economic growth was not taking place as expected, the BSP would not hesitate to raise the bank reserve requirement to mop up excess liquidity.

Buenaventura said he was confident that domestic growth targets would be met given the backdrop of improved investor sentiment.

"The government is swamped with offers to borrow at lower rates and even the corporate sector is able to access foreign funds," the central bank governor said.

While still open to a possible cut in overnight rates, Buenaventura pointed out that the next opportunity would come in four weeks as the central bank had put in place a new process to cope with the new system of inflation-targeting.

Once a month, an advisory committee led by the central bank governor would evaluate monetary policies and submit recommendations to the Monetary Board. The Board would continue to meet weekly but would not discuss monetary policies each time.

The committee met last Tuesday and its proposal to cut overnight rates and the reduction in the bank reserve requirement was approved by the Board.

PNOC eyes oil exploration pact with Cambodia

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

STATE-OWNED Philippine National Oil Co. is expecting to sign a deal with the government of Cambodia to look for oil and natural gas.

PNOC president Thelmo Cunanan said in an interview it was possible that they would sign within the month a joint-venture agreement on exploration with the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority.

Cunanan noted the deal was between the two governments and said the aim was to do exploration activities in both countries.

The PNOC chief added that the firm has sent a team to Indonesia to iron out details of a possible natural gas supply deal.

PNOC is looking into the possibility of sourcing gas from Indonesia's East Natuna reserve through its counterpart, Perusahaan Pertambangan Minyak & Gas Bumi Negara.

"We have formed a steering committee and several technical groups to work on this," Cunanan said.

He added that they expected initial results on the details within a week.

Based on the DOE's projections, the country would need within five to seven years additional gas beyond what Malampaya can offer.

Indonesia has a total natural gas reserve of 72 trillion cubic feet, the biggest in Southeast Asia, while Malampaya has about 2.7 tcf.

Earlier, a PNOC official said at least three foreign firms have expressed interest to explore for oil and gas in the Philippines.

The official said the firms, which he described only as "Southeast Asian and non-Southeast Asian," made clear their intentions during the recent World Energy Council meeting in Argentina in October.

"The area they are mostly interested in is that between the Philippines and Malaysia," he said.

The exploration firms are also looking at the so-called "corridor of opportunity" near Palawan, the source added.

The areas are near the Malampaya field where 2.7 tcf of natural gas was found aside from a recoverable oil reserve of between 35 million and 50 million barrels.

The PNOC official said there were other firms which asked about exploration prospects in the Philippines but that they, and the three firms, have yet to sit down for more serious discussions.

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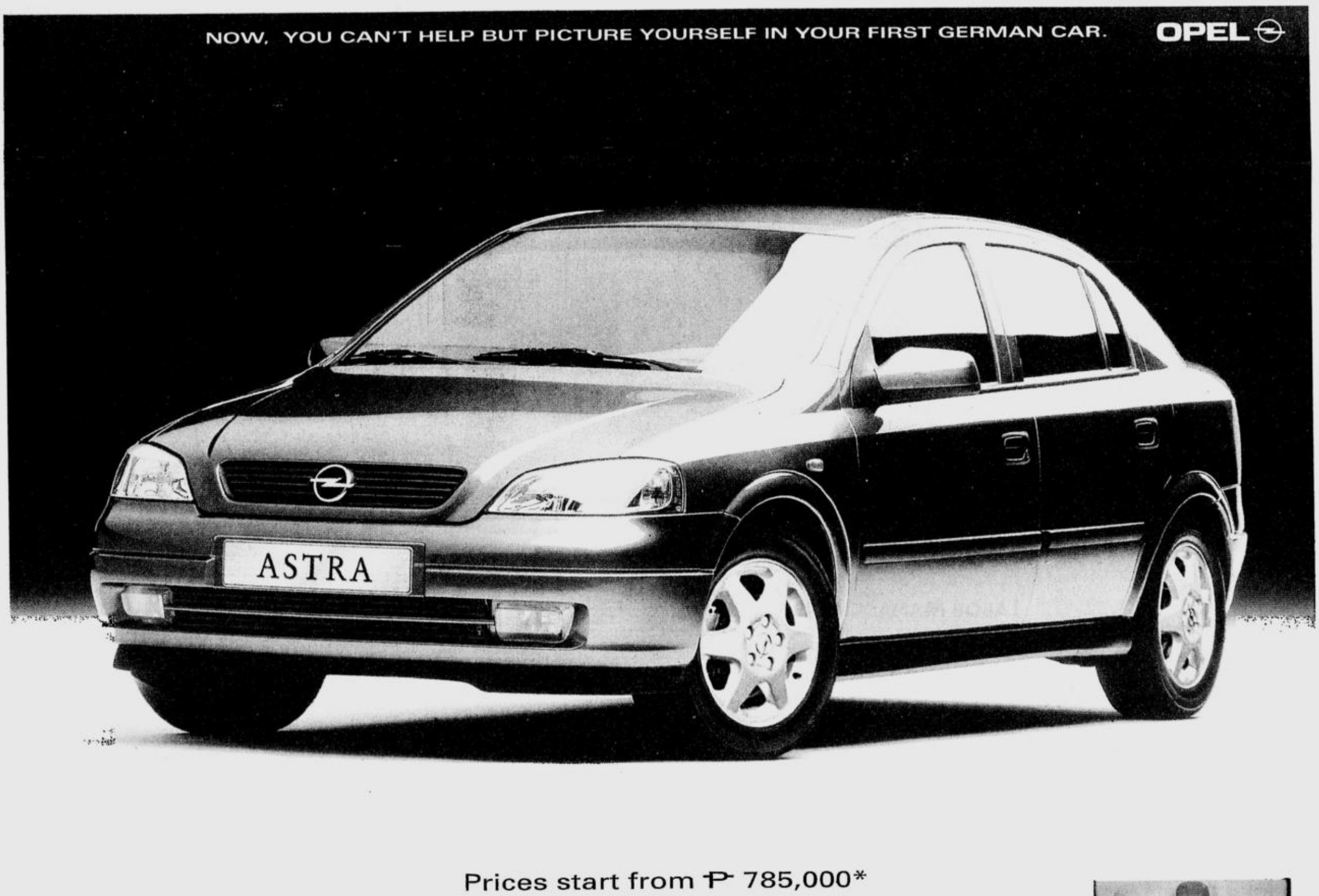

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COPPER MINING CONTRACT

Lepanto seeks Malacañang help

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. has contested in Malacañang a decision made by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources awarding a major South Cotabato copper mining contract to another firm despite Lepanto's existing takeover deal with the selling party.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Lepanto assistant corporate secretary Odette Javier said the DENR's decision to transfer the Tampakan copper prospect from Australian mining giant WMC Resources International Pty. Ltd. to Sagittarius Mines Inc. was not yet final nor executory due to Lepanto's pending appeal with the Office of the President.

Javier said the appeal was made because Lepanto had been denied due process and access to information by the DENR and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau. She likewise claimed that DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez has prematurely acted on an issue that was pending before the regular courts.

She also stressed that the DENR's approval of the transfer to Sagittarius—a consortium led by another Australian mining firm, Indophil Resources—was illegal because it violated a provision in the mining act that the transfer of any Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) should first be approved by the President.

"The reported comments of DENR Secretary Alvarez seemed to suggest that Lepanto had not acted or given its comments to the Secretary concerning the issues subject to his order. This confirmed our fear that the Secretary was not made aware by his subordinates of relevant pending matters in the MGB and the DENR which may explain why he did not ask us to comment on the matter before he precipitately issued his questioned order," Javier said.

At the time the DENR issued the order, Javier pointed out that there was an existing sale and purchase agreement in favor of Lepanto executed by WMC Resources over the latter's entire shareholdings in local subsidiary, WMC Philippines Inc. (WMCPI). She said the sale agreement had been submitted for clearance to both the MGB and the office of the DENR Secretary.

WMCPI is one of only three mining companies that were able to secure FTAAs with the government covering the Tampakan copper-gold project located in the town of Tampakan, South Cotabato, in Mindanao.

The WMC group's Tampakan operations have been severely criticized by certain quarters, particularly non-government organizations and a Sydney-based mining watchdog. As early as 1998, the Australian firm was urged to pull out of the Philippines because it was allegedly causing social and ecological harm to the country.

Meanwhile, Javier also noted that the validity of the agreements that purported to transfer the FTAA to Sagittarius mines was already a main issue in a lawsuit filed by Lepanto which was still pending with the Regional Trial Court of Makati and the Court of Appeals.

"Lepanto wrote the DENR secretary and MGB director several times requesting that action on the application of Sagittarius Mines/ Tampakan companies be held in abeyance pending resolution of the said court case filed by Lepanto," Javier said.

Lepanto, formerly known as Mankayan, one of the country's oldest mining companies, was incorporated in 1936 after taking control of an ore mine that had been producing copper for more than 600 years. The group of PSE chair Felipe Yap, led by his brokerage arm F. Yap Securities Inc., took over Lepanto in 1988 and the mining company has since then diversified into other business concerns, including drilling, insurance, property development, ceramic tile production and port operation.

Ayala Land plans to issue P750-M debt notes

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

PUBLICLY listed Ayala Land Inc., the property arm of the Ayala group, will issue as much as P750 million in debt notes, a source familiar with the matter said.

The issuance is seen to be on top of the P2 billion in bonds that the board of ALI approved last November to fund capital expenditures and boost working capital.

For the P750-million notes issue, ALI has tapped HSBC to be its underwriter. The deal will involve the issuance of P500 million in fixed-rate notes and P250 million in floating-rate notes.

HSBC has already started seeking commitments for the transaction, which would be conducted through an auction that would place a cap on spreads.

The maximum spreads on the fixed rate notes will range between 37.5 basis points and 75 basis points over existing FXTN, depending on the maturity, whether they be three-, five-, seven- or 10-year.

The floating rate notes will have a maximum spread of between 137 and 150 basis points over the 91-day Treasury bill yield.

ALI has an outstanding P3.998 billion in LTCPs that will mature on March 18 this year and P2 billion in LTCPs that will mature on April 2.

ALI's LTCPS have been assigned a rating of PRS Aa by Philippine Rating Services Corp., an affiliate of Standard & Poor's.

A PRS Aa rating indicates a strong capability of the issuer to pay the principal and interest of the paper.

Proceeds of the P2 billion in bonds approved last November will be used for the redevelopment of Greenbelt, the construction of a mid-market mall in the Bonifacio Global City and housing projects.

ALI last November bid for Metro Pacific Corp.'s nearly 70-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp., which has a 55-percent interest in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. FBDC, a joint venture with the Bases Conversion Development Authority, is the developer of a 150-hectare property in the former Fort Bonifacio military camp.

SM Prime sees 12% profit rise

RETAIL giant SM Prime Holdings Inc. is expecting its net profit to rise by 12 percent this year from the estimated P3.45 billion income in 2001.

The increase, up from 10 percent last year, is expected to come from a windfall from its continued mall expansion and the rebound in the global economy.

In an interview yesterday, SMPH chief finance officer Jose Sio also said tycoon Henry Sy's flagship company would end up with a cash hoard of about P4 billion after retiring $101 million worth of Eurobonds maturing this Feb. 22.

"With that kind of cash balance, we can continue with our two-new-malls expansion for each year even without attaching the P4 billion. There's no need to go out for new borrowings," Sio said.

"But if things really improve, we might even expand by more than our average of two malls for each year. We can build three instead of two new malls each year," he stressed.

Sio said rental revenues would sustain an increase of 16 percent this year, at par with the pace of growth last year, due to additional income from new malls, such as the 57,000-square-meter SM Sucat and the 76,000-square-meter SM Davao which were opened last year.

"We also feel that the economy will pick up in the second half of the year following the expected rebound in the economy of the United States by the second quarter. As such, we're projecting a net income growth of 12 percent," Sio said.

ATR Kim Eng Securities analyst Alex Pomento said that with a reduced cash level of P4 billion, SMPH would be less reliant on interest income to boost profits.

PBSP BACKS CONNECTED.PH

The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), one of the country's largest corporate-led social development foundations, has expressed strong support for ConnectEd.ph, a development program that seeks to provide public high schools with computer labs, training and Internet connections. ConnectEd.ph was recently launched with President Macapagal-Arroyo chatting online with public high school students. Shown with the President is Catherine Weir, Citibank N.A. country corporate officer and trustee of the PBSP, which has so far donated computer labs to 14 public high schools.

The promise of a million jobs

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THE VIABILITY of any government essentially hangs on the feasibility of promises, which politicians make and the people initially accept as a covenant between the powerful and the powerless. As long as there are visible evidence showing concrete steps to fulfill them, the government will hold.

But the moment the people realize that there is no genuine will to redeem the promise or that it has become unrealizable, then the covenant will be broken. The people will start withdrawing their support, destroying the very viability of the government itself. That is the essence of democracy, and this government should better keep this in mind if it really wants to survive.

Government rhetorics

The promise of a million jobs is a rhetoric formulated by brilliant PR guys, not unlike those who concocted the highly successful "Gracia" series of PLDT or the "Karen-Gina" ad of McDonalds. The million-job pitch inspires, at first blush, the workers.

Jobs and Justice. Food and Freedom. These powerful slogans ignite in people the promise of salvation in an era of depression. It smells like fresh Sampaguita on top of the mountains of Payatas garbage, like Ilang-ilang brought to Smokey Mountain's stench and decay.

A government of statistics

But the hungry cannot eat slogans for breakfast. The poor cannot use statistics to shelter them from rain, flood and typhoons. If you promise them a million jobs, they will sneer, for these were promised to them since the time of Diosdado Macapagal. They hung on to the promises. They tried hard to believe. But presidents come and go. The jobless still have no jobs. The poor are poorer.

Amando Doronila wrote that President Macapagal-Arroyo failed to impress not only "hoi polloi" but also the middle class, professionals and urbanites who attended the Philippine Forum 2002 convened by Trade Secretary Mar Roxas. These are the critical few who initially led Edsa II, which catapulted Ms Macapagal to power. Thus, a government based on the promises of statistics will not hold.

A million jobs where?

Since a million of new job entrants each year only add into the backlog of the unemployed, the promise of a million jobs will not totally solve the problem. And since local industries cannot possibly absorb a million, again this government will follow the path of least resistance, which is to merchandize our cheap labor in the world employment markets.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration proudly announced that the Philippines would deploy 204,951 seamen in 13 months. This government unabashedly proclaims that it is sending a quarter of a million each year of our best citizens to serve other countries, to cater to other economies because we have neither the will nor the capability to provide local jobs to our own men. Is this something the government should be proud of? We should be ashamed of ourselves.

Curse of OFWs

One of the tragedies that Filipinos have to suffer under a government that is only after the almighty dollar is to sacrifice our dignity as a people, to allow ruptures in our marriages and families to break, and ignore the delinquencies of our youngsters and the upsurge of incest, adultery and concubinage, and even rape and drug addiction as consequences of sending our workers abroad.

The OFW program has enriched thousands of unscrupulous recruiters and proved to be a rich source of corruption for callous government officials. It provides a very potent source of funding to the political careers of those who want OFWs as a perpetual program of labor administration in this country.

Exploitations and injustices

The tragedies of Flor Contemplacion and Sarah Balabagan—tales of woe narrated by hapless victims of exploitation, maltreatment, oppression, inhuman condition, rape, murder, physical torture and psychological injuries inflicted on our OFWs—will fill volumes. Human rights movements should document the endless tales of man's cruelty to another man that can fill the libraries of the world, for the decent, dignified people to know and ponder on.

It is the height of ironies for governments like the Philippines to be the leading promoter of brain drain, of exports of cheap labor. Jobs abroad are like fires that will surely consume the wings of OFWs who fly there at the instigation of a government that is too hopeless and too lacking in other options.

World supplier of humans

Have we become too destitute as a country that we have no more natural resources to sell abroad but our people? Have we depleted the gold in our hills, the silver in our valleys, the iron and copper in our mountain ranges that we now send our young girls to Tokyo and our young boys to Abu Dhabi? Have we run out of copra, hemp or timber that we now trade humans in the world markets?

Or is our government too myopic as not to understand the trauma that its OFW program inflicts on our culture? Are our leaders too naïve or too conscienceless as not to be mindful of the travesty that the OFW program has wrecked on our dignity and honor as Filipinos. Are we going to be known, in the world's view, as the nation of housemaids, entertainers, construction workers and seamen?

Long-term damage

We have long allowed this travesty upon our national honor. In doing so, we mortgage the respect that Filipinos deserve among the family of nations. We also give up one of our treasured national heritage, the Filipino family, once vaunted for its solidarity, for its strength. We allowed husbands to stray in the Arab world. We allowed wives to be enslaved in Hong Kong and Singapore. We allowed children to be left to delinquency and drug addiction.

In the name of the almighty dollar, we have given up everything that our ancestors and our noble heroes fought for so long and so hard with their lives. We have destroyed this moral fiber of this nation in the name of our lust for money.

For that alone, can the government survive based on rhetoric and broken promises?

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, January 17, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.00	59	58	59	69,400
Citystate Savings Bank	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank, Inc.	24.50	25.5	24.5	25	283,900
First E-Bank Corp.	1.30	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	198.0	199	196	199	16,590
Philippine National Bank	62.50	63	62	63	19,800
Phil. Savings Bank	27.00	28	27	28	2,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.50	12.5	12.5	12.5	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.50	15.5	15.5	15.5	81,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1290	1300	1290	1300	190
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1035	1030	1035	3,410
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.00	26	24	26	42,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	.3900	.4	.39	.4	1,200,000
Globe Telecom, Inc.	675.0	675	670	675	65,490
Island Info and Tech Inc.	.0290	.029	.029	.029	3,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.30	3.3	3.2	3.2	11,000
Piltel	.2600	.26	.26	.26	10,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	.2100	.21	.21	.21	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	412.5	417.5	412.5	417.5	26,880
Philweb.Com, Inc.	.0190	.02	.019	.02	138,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	22.75	23.25	22.75	23.25	87,500
Manila Electric Co. "B"	30.50	31.5	30.5	31.5	1,837,800
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.72	1.56	1.7	23,570,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.70	2.8	2.65	2.8	2,219,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	.2800	.28	.27	.27	530,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corporation	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	20,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.80	5.8	5.5	5.5	2,677,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.50	12.75	12.5	12.75	314,800
La Tondena Distillers,Inc.	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	11,200
RFM Corporation	2.30	2.34	2.3	2.32	1,491,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	43.50	44	43.5	44	84,100
San Miguel Corp. "B"	54.00	54	53.5	53.5	894,200
Vitarich Corporation	.45	.45	.45	200,000	
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg "A"	.6500	.67	.65	.67	30,000
Ayala Corporation	5.00	5.3	4.95	5.2	30,470,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.52	1.46	1.52	1,264,000
Ajo.Net Holdings, Inc.	.8300	.83	.8	.82	150,000
A. Soriano Corporation	.5500	.55	.55	.55	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0065	.007	.0065	.0065	172,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	.1800	.18	.18	.18	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	.5300	.58	.52	.58	51,390,000
A Brown Company, Inc.	.5000	.5	.5	.5	100,000
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	.1400	.14	.14	.14	190,000
Crown Equities, Inc.	.2200	.25	.22	.24	460,000
Southeast Asian Cement	.0650	.065	.065	.065	300,000
DMCI Holdings, Inc.	.1900	.21	.19	.2	2,950,000
Ebecom Holdings, Inc.	.0850	.09	.085	.09	2,100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	.0240	.026	.024	.026	3,700,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	.9500	1.06	.95	1.04	5,720,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26.00	27.5	26	27.5	765,900
Global Equities, Inc.	.1200	.14	.12	.14	1,770,000
Ionics, Inc.	6.90	7.2	6.9	7.2	66,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	20,000
Macroasia Corporation	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	95,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. "A"	.0220	.023	.019	.019	10,500,000
Megaworld Corporation	.7000	.77	.7	.77	7,450,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	.2300	.23	.23	.23	70,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.2900	.33	.29	.33	14,080,000
Music Corporation	.2300	.28	.23	.27	12,180,000
Prime Orion Phils., Inc.	.1800	.195	.175	.195	700,000
Roxas Holdings, Inc.	.8100	.81	.81	.81	10,000
Solid Group, Inc.	.3300	.35	.33	.35	1,040,000
Tanduay Holdings, Inc.	4.00	4	4	4	10,000
Uniwide Holdings, Inc.	.1600	.175	.16	.175	560,000
Wellex Industries, Inc.	.2900	.29	.29	.29	20,000
Waterfront Phils., Inc.	.3000	.32	.3	.31	4,070,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Federal Chemicals, Inc.	6.30	6.6	6.3	6.6	15,000
Interphil Labs Inc. "B"	.8000	.8	.8	.8	30,000
Pryce Corporation	.0800	.08	.06	.06	2,500,000
SPI Technologies, Inc.	14.25	14.25	13.5	13.75	156,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corporation	.4200	.44	.42	.43	3,560,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6.80	6.8	6.8	6.8	9,000
Fairmont Holdings, Inc.	.4800	.48	48	.48	110,000
Premiere Ent. Prod., Inc.	.1500	.15	.15	.15	210,000
BONDS, PREFFERED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.50	26.5	25.5	26.5	194,400
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	300
Globe Tel. "A" - Warrants	405.0	405	400	400	610
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.00	10	10	10	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.00	10	10	10	1,200
Philweb.Com,Inc –Warrants	.0055	.0055	.005	.0055	99,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.70	5.8	5.7	5.7	3,613,000
Araneta Properties, Inc.	.1500	.16	.15	.16	400,000
C & P Homes, Inc.	.2400	.27	.24	.27	4,790,000
Cyber Bay Corporation	.4200	.45	.41	.44	12,730,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.2400	.27	.24	.27	13,380,000
Filinvest Land, Inc.	2.06	2.34	2.06	2.34	28,864,000
Fil-Estate Land, Inc.	.2300	.235	.23	.23	280,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	.0700	.07	.07	.07	300,000
Sm Prime Holdings, Inc.	6.60	6.7	6.6	6.7	7,801,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	.0550	.08	.055	.08	2,700,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev.,Inc.	.2500	.25	.25	.25	10,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc. "A"	.2600	.26	.26	.26	10,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	.0034	.0036	.0034	.0036	19,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.50	2.7	2.5	2.7	71,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "A"	.0270	.028	.026	.027	23,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co "B"	.1500	.15	.15	.15	50,000
Omico Corporation	.0036	.0036	.0034	.0036	50,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	.0170	.017	.017	.017	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. "B"	.2500	.25	.25	.25	400,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	.1600	.16	.16	.16	50,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	.0180	.018	.017	.017	18,300,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	.0055	.006	.0055	.006	34,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "B"	.0060	.006	.006	.006	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. "A"	.2600	.26	.26	.26	100,000
Pacifica	.0150	.015	.015	.015	7,200,000
Sinophil Corporation	.0500	.05	.05	.05	100,000
South China Resources Inc.	.2200	.22	.22	.22	430,000
Vulcan Ind'l	.2100	.27	.21	.27	210,000

DISCLOSURES

MARSTEEL Consolidated Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 50-percent rise in the prices of its class A and B shares.

* * *

BANCO Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank announced the appointment of Maxy Abad as executive vice president and director of the bank. Ramon Arcena was promoted from assistant vice president to vice president.

* * *

CITYSTATE Savings Bank Inc. withdrew P12.5 million as reimbursement to the various IPO-related expenses it incurred.

* * *

BANK of the Philippine Islands moved its annual stockholders' meeting from April 9 to April 12 since the ninth is a holiday.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Tobacco Flue-Curing and Redrying Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Feb. 5, 2 p.m. at its principal office in Bonifacio St., Balintawak, Quezon City. Only stockholders of record as of Dec. 21 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

Jan. 17, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.132888	1.000000	51.2260
Japan	Yen	0.008586	0.007579	0.3882
United Kingdom	Pound	1.628526	1.437500	73.6374
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145429	0.128370	6.5759
Switzerland	Franc	0.683038	0.602918	30.8851
Canada	Dollar	0.708719	0.625586	32.0463
Singapore	Dollar	0.618727	0.546150	27.9771
Australia	Dollar	0.583963	0.515464	26.4052
Bahrain	Dinar	3.005167	2.652661	135.8852
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302104	0.266667	13.6603
Brunei	Dollar	0.618659	0.546090	27.9740
Indonesia	Ruplah	0.000109	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025830	0.022800	1.1680
UAE	Dirham	0.308520	0.272331	13.9504
Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000766	0.0392
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.882700	45.2172
Brazil	Real	0.464455	0.420168	21.5235
Denmark	Kroner	0.134541	0.118809	6.0861
India	Rupee	0.023165	0.020747	1.0628
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.294235	0.263227	13.4841
Mexico	New Peso	0.121262	0.108932	5.5802
New Zealand	Dollar	0.473665	0.420345	21.5326
Norway	Kroner	0.125699	0.111652	5.7195
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018679	0.016694	0.8552
South Africa	Rand	0.097808	0.085754	4.3928
Sweden	Kroner	0.108132	0.095409	4.8874
Syria	Pound	0.021877	0.022883	1.1722
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032006	0.028653	1.4678
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001466	0.001314	0.0673

Car loans up 10.9% as of Sept. last year

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

COMMERCIAL banks and thrift lenders released P32.8 billion in car loans as of September last year, up 10.9 percent or P3.22 billion from the previous year's level.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that savings banks accounted for 72.3 percent of the car loans during the period with commercial banks taking up the balance.

Thrift banks had a bigger exposure to car loans with P23.7 billion in the first nine months last year, up 10.4 percent from P21.47 billion the previous year.

Commercial banks' P9.09 billion in auto loans were up by 12.1 percent from P8.1 billion as of September 2000.

As of the third quarter, the auto loans extended by commercial banks accounted for a mere 0.6 percent of their total loan portfolio while the car loan exposure of thrift lenders took up 17.1 percent of their total loans.

The ratio of bad auto loans was higher for the commercial banks at 8.4 percent, although lower than the 9.8 percent posted the previous quarter and the 11.4 percent in 2000.

Thrift banks posted a lower non-performing auto loans ratio of 4.7 percent of total loans from 5 percent the previous quarter and 6 percent the previous year.

A bank source said the bulk of the auto loans were used to buy second-hand cars including those repossessed by banks.

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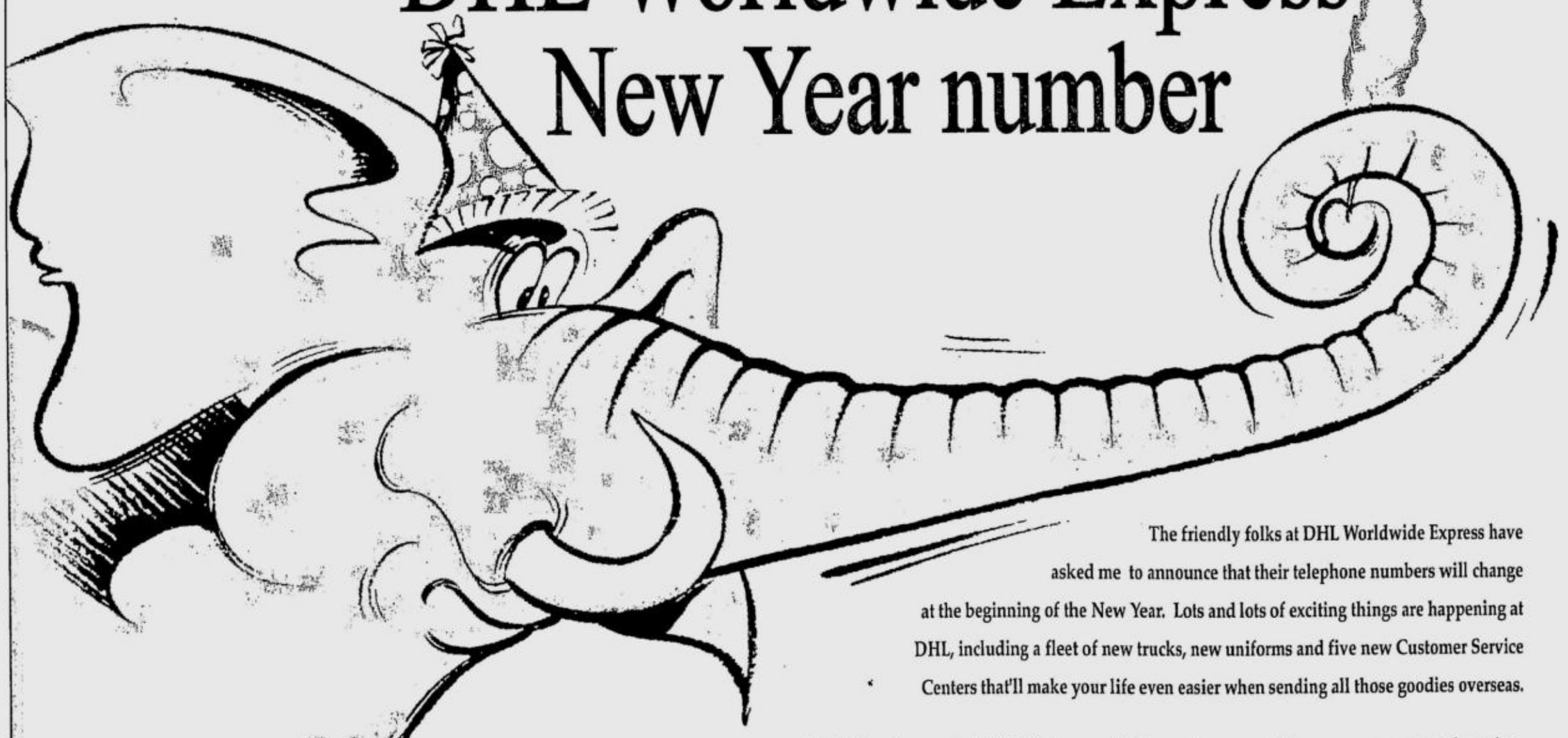

The friendly folks at DHL Worldwide Express have asked me to announce that their telephone numbers will change at the beginning of the New Year. Lots and lots of exciting things are happening at DHL, including a fleet of new trucks, new uniforms and five new Customer Service Centers that'll make your life even easier when sending all those goodies overseas.

I told the nice people at DHL that we couldn't expect everyone to have a memory as good as mine, so I've given you the new telephone numbers BIG so you won't forget!

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Push for retention of 15% resin tariff now, DTI told

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

LOCAL petrochemical producers have asked the Department of Trade and Industry to start lobbying for the retention of the 15-percent duty on resins beyond 2003, although a development plan for a naphtha cracker has yet to be finalized.

In an interview yesterday, a top industry executive, who sought anonymity, urged Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II to raise during the upcoming Asean Senior Economic Officials Meeting in Bangkok later this month the petrochemical industry's position to extend the tariff protection on polymers.

Duties on polypropylene and polyethylene produced by local petrochemical firms are scheduled to go down to 5 percent by 2003.

Under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' "protocol agreement," member-countries can opt to exempt some of their industries from the planned reduction in duties to give them more time to strengthen their operations before competing in an open market. Malaysia has already exercised its protocol option by seeking to extend duties protecting its automobile industry.

Roxas said earlier that the trade department would lobby for a tariff freeze on petrochemical products only when petrochemical producers had already come up with a firm agreement on the construction of a naphtha cracker.

A naphtha cracker produces monomers that are used by petrochemical firms to produce resins, the basic material for plastic products. Such a facility will lead to the full integration of the petrochemical industry by providing cheaper and more reliable monomers for plastic makers.

An industry executive said the trade department should soften its stand on making a naphtha cracker agreement an imperative before it would lobby for tariff protection.

The tariff protection will ensure that the petrochemical players will remain viable once the naphtha cracker starts operation, he said.

He added that there was no point in building a naphtha cracker if its potential users—the petrochemical firms—would go out of business.

Petrochemical firms wanted to get the tariff extension within the year before the duty cutbacks start taking effect in 2003.

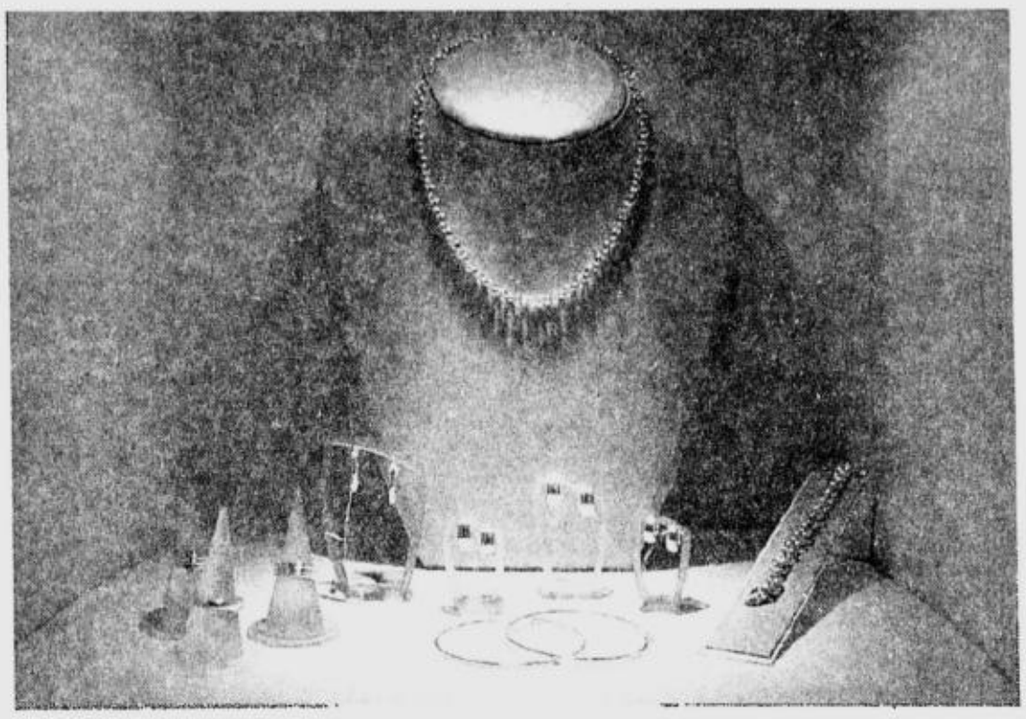
The industry executive assured the government that despite delays in finalizing an agreement for the development of a naphtha cracker in Bataan, the project would be completed by 2004.

He said Energy Secretary Vincent Perez had already endorsed the project to be spearheaded by the state-run PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corp.

Based on market discussions, PPDC will take a minority stake in the naphtha cracker, with the balance to be taken up by interested foreign investors, including a member of Brunei's royal family and Malaysian oil giant Petronas.

Local petrochemical firms have reportedly decided to discontinue their equity contributions to the project while maintaining their commitment to obtain their monomer requirements from the project.

PPDC is planning to build a $700-million naphtha cracker with an annual capacity of 350,000 to 500,000 metric tons.



MICHELIS wants to be one of the first Philippine global brands.

Michelis aims to be world's leading silver jewelry brand

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

IF you received a sterling silver gift item such as a cardholder or a key chain, contemporary silver bracelets or necklaces, or even cufflinks or tiepins for men, there's a big chance that you got it from Michelis Gifts and Jewellery.

SUCCESS STORY

Michelis Gifts and Jewellery, manned by the husband-and-wife team of Juan Luis and Mia Faustmann, is backed by over 20 years of experience in the export business, where Mia has helped establish the Filipino's reputation in crafting fine jewelry.

The Faustmanns' products have been sold by leading retail chains in the United States and Europe since 1979. When she decided to strike out on her own, Mia thought it was about time that Filipinos get the chance to buy jewelry and accessories that were up to world standards of quality and design.

The result was Michelis Gifts and Jewellery. It opened its first store at the Greenbelt mall in 1998, followed up in November last year with a second outlet at the Manila Peninsula.

"Going into retail has always been at the back of our minds even while we were doing the export, but it was only in 1998 that we felt that we were ready to go into retail. We were lucky that there was available space at Greenbelt, so we took it," Mia said.

Top-of-mind brand

The ultimate goal, Mia says, is to establish Michelis as the top-of-mind brand for silver jewelry not only in the Philippines but also in the world.

"We want to establish a global brand. We believe that we have what it takes because we have been in export for some time, so we know how it is to be truly world class," Mia said.

The Faustmanns decided to concentrate on silver, as it is a cheaper and more exciting metal to work with compared to gold. Match the sterling silver with colored precious stones and the result, Mia says, is a selection of jewelry that caters to today's more upbeat generation.

Silver is one of the world's oldest metals—it was first mined in 700 B.C.—and ranks next to gold as an expensive and precious metal.

"Since silver is cheaper and easier to work with than gold, we can continuously come up with new designs and make bigger pieces to suit different tastes," Mia said.

Michelis caters not only to women, but also to men. It has an extensive range of cufflinks and barong studs. The Faustmanns believe men have long complained of the limited line of men's accessories.

"The men's line has been growing significantly because men these days also want to be fashionable," Jose Luis Faustmann said.

Top quality at affordable prices

Michelis' creations are guaranteed to have 92.5 percent silver content, although many of the articles are at 95.2 percent as required by the international market.

"We do not want to compromise on the quality. We have only one standard for our products. The products that you would see at the stores here in Manila would have the same quality and workmanship as the products that we export, although the designs may be different," he said.

Jose Luis, however, stresses that having world-class quality does not mean that the products would be too expensive.

"We also considered affordability, so we made efforts to keep prices reasonable. Our products right now cost an average of between P2,000 and P3,000 but you can buy sets for less than P10,000," Faustmann says.

The same attention on affordability and design also went to the corporate gift line, which includes cardholders, key chains and even watches.

"We do not want to limit ourselves to just jewelry because silver is very versatile. We can design products exclusively for a corporate client depending on the volume. This is just one of our services," says Jose Luis.

He said at least two more Michelis showrooms would be put up in Metro Manila and perhaps two more in key provinces.

The Faustmanns also hope to put up their first showrooms in Asian cities by 2007.

"We want the world to say that first there was silver, then sterling silver, and now Michelis," Faustmann said.

CAB scores PAL bid to deny rival carrier access to Korea

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

AFTER staunchly opposing an air rights agreement between Manila and Seoul, Philippine Airlines Inc. has now set its sights on preventing regulators from lending its two South Korean "entitlements" to rival carrier Cebu Pacific Air.

"Before the air talks with Korea, PAL even opposed it. It reasoned that the Koreans would use the new allocations to steal its market. After we got the allocations, PAL is now grabbing them," Civil Aeronautics Board official Alberto Lim told the INQUIRER yesterday.

On Jan. 11, PAL asked the CAB to grant it two additional flights to South Korea on top of the 13 it already had.

In a statement issued Wednesday, PAL said it was the one that pioneered that particular route so "it should be given priority in recognition of the substantial investment (it) had sunk into developing the service."

Lim, however, said PAL "cannot claim paternity or invoke the grandfather rule. It's obvious that they're just doing it to kill the competition."

He stressed that the CAB's decision in favor of Cebu Pacific was done "to promote competition. We have a multiple designation policy."

PAL has many options other than keeping Cebu Pacific's entitlements if it is sincere in its drive to promote tourism in Cebu, he said.

"They have 13 flights. They use only two of these for the Cebu-Korea route. They have a lot of options. They can divert some of their Manila-Korea flights or they can use wide-bodied aircraft. They can also ask for additional charters. They're saying the Koreans will not grant them additional charters, but that is not true," he said.

In a statement, Cebu Pacific added that "if PAL really wants to boost Cebu tourism, it should reallocate some of its Manila-South Korea flights to Cebu." It further stressed that "PAL cannot keep what it just borrowed and what has already been awarded to another flag carrier."

CAB deputy executive director Carmelo Arcilla told the INQUIRER in another interview that what PAL wanted was to split the entitlements instead of giving Cebu Pacific three.

Jacob to head unit studying depot relocation

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

ENERGY Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. has appointed Monico Jacob, former chair of Petron Corp., as overseer of a study on the relocation of the Pandacan oil depots.

Perez said Jacob agreed to convene the task force doing the study on the feasibility of transferring the three oil majors' terminals in Manila.

Late last year, the energy department signed a memorandum of agreement with Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. to come up with a plan on resolving the Pandacan issue.

The "Big Three" operate storage and distribution facilities in Pandacan around which communities have mushroomed over the last 80 years.

Fears of a disaster, triggered by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, have fuelled calls for the closing down of the facilities.

The city government of Manila has ruled that the depots are allowed to operate only up to June this year.

NEWS BRIEFS

Still no go for Lafayette project

THE MINES and Geosciences Bureau said Lafayette (Philippines) Inc. would have to obtain provincial and municipal endorsements to pursue its $40-million Rapu Rapu polymetallic-mining project in Legaspi, Albay.

The endorsements will also allow Lafayette Philippines to secure a $35-million loan from London-based creditor Standard Bank of London Ltd., according to the bureau. *Christine A. Gaylican*

Dos Palmas to reopen

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan—Dos Palmas, one of this province's exotic island resorts, is mapping out a plan to reopen its doors this March.

A person familiar with the matter said the Lim family, the owners of Dos Palmas, were raising funds to resume the operations of their resort.

"It is their father's legacy, and they don't want to let go of it, so they are giving another go of the project," the source said.

Dos Palmas lies in an unspoiled region in Palawan. It lies in an area of the province that is blessed with beautiful beaches, virgin mangrove forests, a wildlife sanctuary and an underground river.

A tourism official, who sought anonymity, urged tourists to support efforts by Dos Palmas and other destinations hit hard by the tourism scare that arose from the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States to reopen their doors and overcome their industry's slump.

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of DECEMBER 14, 2001

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items		₱ 1,265,539,581
Due from Bangko Sentral		572,937,271
Due from Other Banks		1,845,690,825
Interbank Loans Receivable		3,602,385,000
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)		1,809,178,064
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		24,662,237,992
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		37,272,493,065
Equity Investments (Net)		233,670,932
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,986,088,852
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		3,492,317,798
Others		3,974,165,289
TOTAL ASSETS		₱ 81,716,704,669

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	₱ 7,020,123,600
Savings Deposits	26,955,095,928
Time Deposits	25,845,410,300
Special/Other Deposits	61,328,402
Due to Bangko Sentral	24,730,305
Due to Banks	2,001,074
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	243,182,291
Bills Payable	4,878,148,765
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	533,260,653
Other Liabilities	3,436,448,362
TOTAL LIABILITIES	₱ 68,999,729,680

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	₱ 2,537,784,300
Surplus	8,097,261,068
Surplus Reserves	223,910,986
Other Capital Accounts	1,858,018,635
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	₱ 12,716,974,989
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	₱ 81,716,704,669

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		₱ 1,264,181,212
Bills for Collection		316,620,989
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		158,757,507
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		3,850,303,257
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		27,657,538,538
Invested in:		
Government Securities	₱19,401,641,523	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	981,939,227	
Loans and Discounts	3,305,669,953	
Other Assets	3,968,287,835	
Accountabilities:		
Trust and Other Fiduciary	24,615,842,336	
Common Trust Funds	592,983,452	
Investment/Fund Management	2,363,576,900	
Unearned Income & Other Accountabilities	85,135,850	
Other contingent accounts		2,277,559,445
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		₱ 35,524,960,948

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:		
A) Government		P 4,042,066
B) Banks		153,047,071
C) Trust department		12,500,504
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:	*Prescribed Ratio of Compliance*	*6% For Small Ent.* / *2% For Medium Ent.*
	Actual Compliance	221% / 785%
3. Amount of non-performing loans		6,021,664,680
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio		13.74%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets		8,462,064,710
6. General provision for loan losses		654,370,772
7. Specific provision for loan losses		2,292,616,085
8. Return on Equity		7.29%
9. DOSRI loans/advances		2,878,246,704
10. Ratio to total loan portfolio		6.57%
11. Past due DOSRI loans/advances		122,164,153
12. Ratio to total loan portfolio		0.28%

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES } S. S.
CITY OF MAKATI

We, RICARDO R. CHUA and PETER S. DEE, of the above mentioned Bank, do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) RICARDO R. CHUA
Executive Vice President &
Chief Operating Officer

(Sgd.) PETER S. DEE
President &
Chief Executive Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this Jan. 10, 2002, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 00676998 issued at Manila on April 03, 2001 and Residence Certificate No. 09296238 issued at Manila on February 22, 2001, respectively.

Doc. No. 247
Page No. 51
Book No. 25
Series of 2002

(Sgd.) FLORA E. DE PANO
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2002
PTR No. 7726510 Makati 1/4/01
TIN 171-621-652

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of DECEMBER 14, 2001

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items		₱ 1,271,332,576
Due from Bangko Sentral		572,937,271
Due from Other Banks		1,845,690,825
Interbank Loans Receivable		3,602,385,000
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)		1,809,178,064
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		24,738,248,103
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		37,272,493,065
Equity Investments (Net)		179,170,932
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,986,424,283
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		3,492,317,798
Others		3,992,397,654
TOTAL ASSETS		₱ 81,762,575,571

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	₱ 7,020,123,600
Savings Deposits	26,955,095,928
Time Deposits	25,845,410,300
Special/Other Deposits	61,328,402
Due to Bangko Sentral	24,730,305
Due to Banks	2,001,074
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	243,182,291
Bills Payable	4,878,148,765
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	553,387,954
Other Liabilities	3,459,979,399
TOTAL LIABILITIES	₱ 69,043,388,018
Minority Interest in Subsidiary	₱ 2,212,564

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	₱ 2,537,784,300
Surplus	8,097,261,068
Surplus Reserves	223,910,986
Other Capital Accounts	1,858,018,635
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	₱ 12,716,974,989
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	₱ 81,762,575,571

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		₱ 1,264,181,212
Bills for Collection		316,620,989
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		158,757,507
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		3,850,303,257
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		27,657,538,538
Invested in:		
Government Securities	₱19,401,641,523	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	981,939,227	
Loans and Discounts	3,305,669,953	
Other Assets	3,968,287,835	
Accountabilities:		
Trust and Other Fiduciary	24,615,842,336	
Common Trust Funds	592,983,452	
Investment/Fund Management	2,363,576,900	
Unearned Income & Other Accountabilities	85,135,850	
Other contingent accounts		2,295,698,117
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		₱ 35,543,099,620

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:	
A) Government	₱ 4,042,066
B) Banks	153,047,071
C) Trust Department	12,500,504

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries
A) CBC Venture Capital Corporation
B) CBC FOREX CORPORATION
C) CBC INSURANCE BROKERS, INC.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES } S. S.
CITY OF MAKATI

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Stanchart to issue P3B in long-term deposits

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

STANDARD Chartered Bank has asked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to approve its plan to issue P3 billion worth of long-term certificates of deposits, the first bank to tap long-term deposits to raise fresh funds.

In its application, the UK-based universal bank informed the BSP that it wanted to raise new funds to finance a more aggressive consumer lending program.

Standard Chartered has tapped another foreign lender, Banco Santander, to arrange the issuance of its certificates of deposits.

A bank cannot arrange the issuance of its own deposit certificates, according to the central bank.

Standard Chartered's certificates of deposits will have a maturity of five years and a day.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said Standard Chartered was unlikely to encounter problems in securing approval for its application because the central bank had been encouraging banks to offer new products that would give them new sources of revenue.

When a bank has more funds, according to Reyes, they will also be able to lend more aggressively.

Standard Chartered is the first foreign bank to set up in the country and the second oldest, next to the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

It started operating in 1872. It recently vowed to set up its operations to catch up with bigger rivals, like Citibank N.A. and HSBC Corp.

To encourage banks to issue long-term types of deposits, meaning those maturing in more than five years, and help develop a secondary market for debt and deposit notes, the central bank reduced last year the reserve requirement for these instruments to 2 percent from 20 percent.

Only banks that meet the minimum capital requirement and risk adequacy ratio and other standards of financial health will be allowed to issue certificate of deposits that can be sold to retail investors.

A bank can only issue deposit certificates up to three times the size of its capital and initially only in weekly or monthly tranches of P5 billion.

A depositor with available cash could put this in a bank in exchange for a certificate of deposit that could be bought or sold in a secondary market.

The problem, said a bank analyst, was a lack of impetus for a secondary market to grow and flourish.

A secondary market is necessary also for long-term deposits to be attractive since the certificates can be bought or sold even before maturity.

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Top companies made Exchange 2000 their messaging platform.

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Carol Carreon
President and CEO, BayanTrade

"We chose Microsoft because it has the distinct advantage any government agency loves to see. It's more cost-effective than it's competitors. And it's more efficient now than ever before. I believe Microsoft can easily address our requirements."
Ms. Emma Hizon
MIS Director, Dept. of Transportation and Communication

"Exchange 2000 Server offered almost everything we could imagine to improve the users' experience and productivity, both in and out of the office."
Dan Guttman
Manager of messaging technology and operational systems, MTVI

"The collaborative features of the Exchange 2000 Web Storage System, including content indexing and enhanced search capabilities, are absolutely indispensable in enabling Bosch to increase our agility in product development and in improving customer satisfaction through timely development of new products."
Knut Angstenberger
Head of department information processing for engineering and sales, Bosch K5

"One of the things that attracted us to the Exchange and Outlook platform was that we could write extensive applications. We were able to use Exchange as a platform on which to build more!"
Bryan Boreham
Chief Technology Officer, Credit Suisse First Boston

"Microsoft Exchange 2000 Server provides a unified messaging and communications platform that is essential in meeting our business goals while transitioning to an e-culture."
Ray Paul
Director of sales systems, Nabisco, Inc.

"Working from the new Exchange API, we were able to ensure that ScanMail will integrate seamlessly with Exchange 2000 as part of a successful enterprise deployment. It provides a powerful layer of protection against macro viruses, Trojans, worms and other content security threats."
Richard Ku
Product Manager, ScanMail for Exchange, Trend Micro

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Microsoft

Japan GDP seen down 1.1% this year, more woes ahead

TOKYO—Japan's economy is expected to shrink by one percent this fiscal year and keep contracting in the following year due to sluggish consumption at home and weak external demand, a Reuters poll published on Thursday showed.

The median forecast is for a 1.1-percent decline in gross domestic product in the year to March, while the average forecast is for a fall of one percent, according to the survey of 31 economists polled last week.

"We'll see the worst postwar contraction this fiscal year," said Kazuhiko Ogata, senior economist at HSBC Securities, who forecasts a 1.1-percent fall in GDP growth for fiscal 2001/02.

"Consumption and external demand are two elements that will weigh on growth. I also expect weakness in capital spending to put pressure on the economy," he added.

The 1.1-percent median forecast for fiscal 2001/02 is almost in line with the government's official forecast of a one-percent contraction and is unchanged from the previous Reuters survey conducted three months ago.

But what is more alarming is that many economists have lowered their forecasts for the following year.

The median forecast for GDP in fiscal 2002/03 came in at minus 0.7 percent against minus 0.2 percent in the previous poll in October.

HSBC Securities' Ogata said that even his forecasts assume the best economic scenario and that there are plenty of factors that could lower economic growth from his own predictions.

"There are many risk factors. For one thing, a deflationary spiral could be much worse than what people expect and secondly, a recovery in the US economy could be delayed."

The government and the Bank of Japan have yet to declare the economy is in a deflationary spiral—a cycle in which falling prices, weak corporate profits and low consumption feed on each other. But policymakers, including Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka, have warned that Japan was on the brink of it.

Poor earnings a major culprit

Many analysts point out that corporate Japan's deteriorating earnings environment is one of the main culprits behind the country's economic woes.

Mamoru Yamazaki, chief economist at Barclays Japan, says the pace of corporate restructuring is not catching up with the speed at which profits are shrinking.

With earnings showing no sign of a pick-up, that is putting pressure on personal income and could force companies to slash not only their spending on plant and equipment but also their workforce, economists say.

Bankruptcies and unemployment are on the rise, while prices have fallen persistently for two years.

The Reuters survey showed Japan's industrial production dropping 10.5 percent in fiscal 2001/02 and 1.6 percent in fiscal 2002/03.

Meanwhile, the jobless rate is expected to continue to break its record with the median forecast coming in at 6 percent for fiscal 2002/03. *Reuters*

Korea's reforms show Asia the way

TOKYO—Haltingly, imperfectly, one economy is showing the rest of Asia the growth rewards that can eventually be gleaned from painful reform: South Korea's.

Korea has outperformed the region during the global slowdown by making full use of all the levers of economic policy: The government has pumped up spending and the currency—in contrast to, say, Taiwan—has been kept cheap to prop up export volumes and pin real interest rates at historic lows.

With investment demand weak because companies are still over-indebted and enjoy little pricing power, the result has been a redistribution of income toward the household sector.

Unemployment has fallen, aided by a flexible labor market, and property prices have boomed, fanning fears of a bubble in the making.

But this cyclical upturn is only part of the story. What impresses economists is that Seoul has set the stage for a secular shift toward greater household spending that could serve as a template for the rest of export-dependent Asia.

"The economy is moving away from a strong reliance on growth on exports and investment to a more balanced growth where consumption plays a more important role," said Dominique Dwor-Frecaut of Barclays Capital in Singapore.

Behind the shift is a shake-up since Asia's 1997 financial crisis in the Korean banking system, which Tim Condon of ING Barings says is now healthier than that of any other country hit by the financial meltdown. *Reuters*

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Australian jobless rate steady at 67%

SYDNEY—Australia's official unemployment rate remained steady at 6.7 percent in December despite evidence that employment growth has stalled, official data revealed Thursday.

The Bureau of Statistics said the number of unemployed people had dropped by a seasonally adjusted 1.2 percent to 659,600 while the number in work had dropped by 0.1 percent, to 9.1 million.

But the unemployment rate remained steady at 6.7 percent because the 0.1-percent fall was offset by a drop of 0.1 percent (9,700 jobs) in the size of the labor force.

Commonwealth Bank chief economist Michael Blythe said the data showed average growth of 4,000 jobs a month, which was insufficient to absorb the number of job seekers coming on to the market.

"So that is basically saying that employment growth has ground to a halt," he said, adding that the unemployment rate was likely to climb above 7 percent over the next few months.

Opposition treasury spokesperson Bob McMullan said the figures showed the recovery in the labor market had stalled, while more people were dropping out of the search for work.

"It is a sad state of affairs when a government relies on people losing hope of ever finding a job, and giving up the search for work. to merely hold the unemployment rate constant," he said.

However, Employment Minister Tony Abbott said the latest figures were cause for optimism following other studies, which pointed to continuing job growth, with retail trade figures and consumer confidence improving. *AFP*

Microsoft bares major strategy shift

WASHINGTON—Microsoft chair Bill Gates announced a major strategy shift across all its products, including its flagship Windows software, to emphasize security and privacy over new capabilities.

In an e-mail to employees obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, Gates referred to the new philosophy as "Trustworthy Computing" and said his highest priority is to ensure that computer users continue to venture across an increasingly Internet-connected world.

Gates compared the significance of his 1,600-word message, sent Tuesday, to his so-called "tidal wave" e-mails during the mid-'90s, which changed the course of Microsoft, and much of the software industry, to focus its products on the Internet.

He said this new emphasis on security for Microsoft was "more important than any other part of our work. If we don't do this, people simply won't be willing—or able—to take advantage of all the other great work we do."

"When we face a choice between adding features and resolving security issues, we need to choose security," Gates continued. "Our products should emphasize security right out of the box."

The dramatic change comes after the discovery of major security problems in Microsoft products, such as flaws in the latest versions of Windows that allow hackers to seize control of a user's computer.

Another problem allowed the Code Red viruses to cripple hundreds of thousands of computers running Microsoft products. *AP*

Creditors save Japan's Daiei

TOKYO—Ailing supermarket chain operator Daiei Inc. will receive a $3.2-billion bailout from three main creditor-banks as it struggles to survive under huge debts, reports said Thursday.

The retailer will announce a new restructuring plan as early as Friday, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun and Tokyo Shimbun newspapers said.

The deal includes halving 150 Daiei subsidiaries to cut group interest-bearing debts to 1 trillion yen ($7.6 billion) from 1.75 trillion yen in three years, excluding debts of profitable credit card company Daiei OMC Inc., the reports said.

"Under the plan, UFJ Holdings Inc., Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. (SMBC) and Fuji Bank will retire all 120 billion yen in preferred shares that they purchased from Daiei last year," the Nihon Keizai business daily said.

"Through debt-for-equity swaps, the three lenders will exchange 300 billion yen in loan claims to Daiei for new preferred shares in the retailer," it said.

Despite the barrage of stories on its restructuring drive, officials from the banks and Daiei declined to disclose details of talks being held.

"We have not worked out a concrete plan yet," said Daiei spokesperson Kikue Inoue.

But a spokesperson for mega-bank UFJ, Daiei's biggest single creditor, admitted the reports were fairly accurate. *AFP*

Fed officials see recovery but upturn may be shaky

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve officials on Wednesday said they see the economy beginning to recover from recession, but warned the eventual upturn may be shaky.

In remarks to the Economic Club of Colorado, Fed vice chair Roger Ferguson said he thought the economy would likely see a rebound "before too long."

"The contours of the upturn are uncertain," Ferguson said.

A similar tone was struck in the Fed's "beige book" report, also released Wednesday, which said the economy "remained weak" through early January but also cited "scattered reports of improvement."

The rhetoric leaves the door open for Fed policymakers to ease rates further when they convene in Washington on Jan. 29-30. Some economic data in recent weeks have not been as weak as expected, and have given financial markets and forecasters some reason to believe the recession may end early this year.

"Financial markets—which have rallied in recent weeks—appear to have priced in an outlook at least this optimistic," Ferguson said, adding, "it is too early to know whether either of these forecasts . . . will come true," he said.

By raising doubts about the timing and strength of a recovery, the Fed may be leaving itself room to justify another interest rate cut, as an insurance policy for growth ahead, analysts say. The central bank cut rates 11 times in 2001.

Cautionary numbers

One piece of economic data released on Wednesday showed those concerns may be justified. The Fed said industrial production slipped 0.1 percent in December, capping a year in which output fell by 3.9 percent, the biggest annual decline since 1982.

Analysts had been expecting a slightly better performance and the reading served to underscore the weakness in the nation's factory sector.

In other releases on Wednesday, the Labor Department said US consumer prices dropped 0.2 percent, aided by falling energy costs, and the Commerce Department said business inventories were down 1.0 percent in November.

The weakness in the factory sector was also noted by the "beige book" report, which said manufacturing was weak or down in nearly all 12 Fed regions.

"Demand is lower for machine tools, metals, textiles, telecommunications and most aircraft equipment," the Fed said.

"The theme is 'recovery appears to be taking shape but a lot of uncertainty about timing and magnitude remain,'" said Pete Kretzmer, senior economist with Banc of America Securities in New York.

Kretzmer said the Fed officials appear to be taking their lead from Fed chair Alan Greenspan, who, in a closely watched speech last week, said it was "premature" to think the forces holding the US economy back had dissipated.

Indeed, Robert Parry, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, told a real estate conference on Wednesday "it is too soon to bet" on a recovery in the first quarter. *Reuters*

CUSTOMER traffic is slow at Kmart store in Dallas, Texas. Declining sales and profit has left the second-largest US discount chain strapped for cash. Kmart continued to lose heavily as its board met to discuss financing options for the company s fears intensified the Michigan-based retailer may have to file for bankruptcy. AFP

GM profit plunges 58% in 4th quarter

DETROIT—General Motors reported Wednesday a 58.1-percent plunge in fourth quarter net profit as it fought a weaker US economy and turmoil abroad.

The performance dragged down the result for the whole of 2001, when net profit slumped 70 percent, the world's biggest automobile manufacturer said in a statement.

"Our performance in 2001 was quite strong considering all of the challenges we faced and we continue to build momentum through the coming year," said GM chair Jack Smith.

"Our focus in the coming year is to build on our market success and make further improvements in our financial performance," he said in the statement.

General Motors' net profit slid to $255 million, or 60 cents a share, in the October-December period of last year from $609 million, or $1.15 a share, a year before.

The result beat auto analysts' consensus forecast for a net profit of 59 cents a share, according to a survey by market analysts First Call/Thomson Financial.

On Wall Street, General Motors' shares fell 21 cents, or 0.4 percent, to close at $49.75 on a generally lower market.

The devaluation of the peso in crisis-torn Argentina inflicted a $97-million cut in earnings in the fourth quarter period, General Motors said.

Revenue rose 2.1 percent to $45.95 billion.

The difficult fourth quarter dragged down the whole of 2001, when net profit plummeted 70 percent to $1.5 billion, or $3.23 a share. Revenue eased 3.3 percent to $177.3 billion.

General Motors said it suffered from intense price pressures but managed to partially offset them by cutting costs and making market share gains with strong new products.

The company said it expected overall US industry vehicle sales of about 15 million to 15.5 million units and industry sales in Europe of approximately 18.5 million units.

Sales in the Latin America/Africa/Mid-East and Asia-Pacific regions were expected to be relatively flat compared with 2001.

US dealer inventories were lean at fewer than one million units, and first quarter North American production was expected to increase 7 percent from a year earlier, it said.

Prices were expected to fall a net one percent.

GM said its earnings target for 2002, excluding the loss-making Hughes Electronics subsidiary, which it is now selling to EchoStar Communications, remained at $3 per share, while first quarter earnings were now expected to be about $1 per share. *AFP*

Singapore measures to lift 2002 GDP

SINGAPORE—Stimulus packages worth S13.5 billion dollars ($7.34 billion) will boost Singapore's 2002 economic growth by one percentage point, the de facto central bank said Thursday.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said in its twice-yearly review that "the introduction of the off-budget measures without any change in MAS monetary policy stance" will lift GDP in 2002 by a full percentage point.

Official projections said the economy will grow between minus 2 percent and plus 2 percent this year after a 2.2-percent contraction in 2002. In 2000, the economy grew 9.9 percent.

By allowing the Singapore dollar to trade within a wider band against the city-state's major trading partners, the economy is further boosted by a 0.3 percentage point, said the MAS, which announced its decision to allow an easier exchange rate policy last year.

Two stimulus packages were introduced last year as the economy sank into its worst downturn since Singapore achieved statehood in 1965.

The first package announced in July was worth $2.2 billion and the final package in October, worth $11.3 billion dollars, was made when it was obvious the economy had already sunk into a recession.

While some signs of a sketchy recovery have emerged, the MAS said the economy is still vulnerable.

The US economy, the biggest buyer of Singaporean goods and services, especially its key electronics products, is likely to see only a modest revival in its economic fortunes, said the MAS.

There also remain significant risks in the external environment, it said.

"Therefore, we remain cautious about whether these tentative signs of improvement are sustainable or if they merely reflect an element of year-end seasonal pick-up in demand," the MAS said.

Projections of a 1.7 percent GDP growth this year by a group of economists surveyed by MAS is dependent on a turnaround in the island's vital electronics sector and an improvement in the external environment.

"The upturn hinges critically on the strength of the recovery in the electronics industry and external economic environment," said the MAS.

"Nevertheless, some recovery in external demand should help to underpin a turnaround in domestic electronics exports and industrial output around the second half of 2002," it said. *AFP*

US group threatens to drop Hyundai bid

SEOUL—A US consortium has threatened to abandon takeover talks for Hyundai group's financial arms unless the government provides full debt liability guarantees, a newspaper said Thursday.

The demand was contained in a letter sent by consortium leader American International Group (AIG) to the Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC), the JoongAng newspaper said.

AIG insisted the government provide a 100-percent guarantee on additional debts that might appear after a takeover, while the watchdog offered to cover 45 percent of the potential debt, it said.

JoongAng quoted an AIG official as saying: "AIG demands that the government put the investment trust firms under receivership first to get rid of their bad assets before a takeover.

"Without solving the issues concerning additional debt guarantees, AIG has no choice but to give up the acquisition."

An FSC official told AFP: "The reported AIG stance may be one of their bargaining cards. All I can say is that negotiations are still underway."

South Korean negotiators have criticized AIG for delaying talks by introducing new terms.

A security house official said: "The government has been preparing for several possible scenarios, including AIG's withdrawal from the talks."

AIG signed a memorandum of understanding in August to buy Hyundai Securities Co. and its two ailing sister firms for 1.1 trillion won ($833 million). *AFP*

North Sea find biggest in decade–energy firm

LONDON—Estimates of the yield of a North Sea oilfield have been revised upwards, making it the biggest discovery of oil in the area for more than a decade, Pan Canadian Energy company announced Thursday.

The firm had calculated it could recover up to 300 million barrels of oil from the Buzzard Field, 100 kilometers northeast of the Scottish city of Aberdeen, when it was first drilled last summer.

Now the company says that further test drilling shows the oil reservoir is larger than previously thought, and could yield 400 million barrels.

Pan Canadian Energy added it was continuing its appraisal of the Buzzard Field and estimates of how much could be recovered might rise further.

The appraisal should be completed by the summer.

The announcement was welcomed by Britain's energy minister Brian Wilson, who said: "This is the biggest North Sea discovery since the Nelson Field in 1988 and confirms that there are still huge prizes to be won."

He added: "This is a prime example of why we are working so hard with industry to get offshore blocks in the hands of the right operators."

Alan Booth, managing director of the London-based arm of Pan Canadian Energy, said: "These results confirm our long-held belief that the United Kingdom Central North Sea still holds significant rewards for companies committed to exploring in this prolific basin." *AFP*

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **ROBERTO P. CUREG** has been extrajudicially settled by his hiers on December 21, 2001 under Doc 553 Page 3, Book VII, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Jovino R. Angel of Pasay City.
(PDI- Jan 11, 18, 25, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that the following POEA-Balik Manggagawa OEC (Overseas Employment Certificates) dated 18 December 2001 issued to **ANGLO EUROPEAN SERVICES, INC.** were lost OEC-B MAD Nos. 1269435-0, 1269436-0, 1269437-0, 1269438-0, 1269439-0, 1269440-0, 1269441-0, 1269442-0, 1269443-0, 1269444-0, 1269445-0. We further inform the public that POEA already cancelled the said OEC's and now null and void
(PDI-Jan. 18, 2002)

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NOTICE OF CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the Representative Office of **BANK KREISS, AG**, in the Philippines with office address at 1016 Teresa Street, Rizal Village, Makati City, ceased its business operations effective **December 31, 2001**. Claims against the Representative Office may be filed at the address stated above.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Southridge Raffle draw originally scheduled for February 2002 (Fathers' Day) has been moved to **December 6, 2002 (Friday)**.

Thank you.

PAREF-Southridge School Raffle Committee

(PDI - Jan. 18, 2002)

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ON VIEW: Friday 18th January 2002 - 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Saturday 19th January - 9:00am - 1:00pm
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php20,000.00 (Upon Registration)

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
Region 10, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (088) 858-4167

AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

INVITATION TO BID

January 18, 2002
World Bank/IBRD
Loan No. 4109-PH

The government of the Philippines has received a loan from the IBRD towards the cost of the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible source as defined in the Guidelines Procurement under IBRD loan and IDA credits.

The National Irrigation Administration, Region 10 Cagayan de Oro City and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Construction of Sibula Communal Irrigation Project, located at Lopez Jaena, Misamis Occidental in accordance with hereunder work package:

Description of Project:
Furnish & Deliver HDPE Pipes, including couplings (Main Canal, Sta. 0+200 to 2+780), 88 pcs. of 5.50 m. length, 30" dia., dual walled type.

No. days to complete : 120 Calendar days
Minimum Bid Bond : Php 37,500.00
BIDDING DATE : **February 22, 2002,** 1:00 p.m., NIA Regional Irrigation Office Conference Room, Cagayan de Oro City

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders at above office starting January 23, 2002, upon payment of non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00). Pre-bid conference will be held on **February 14, 2002** at 1:00 p.m. at Conference Room, NIA Regional Irrigation Office, Cagayan de Oro City.

All bids must be accompanied by a corresponding security bid bond in a form of Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft of an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency and must be delivered to the NIA, Regional Irrigation Office, Cagayan de Oro City on or before bidding date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bidding dates in the presence of participating bidder or representative who chose to attend.

The BAC-NIA Region 10 reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bidder.

(Sgd.) **JOHNNY V. EMMANUEL**
Regional Irrigation Manager

(PDI - Jan 18 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The National Historical Institute is inviting interested parties to apply for prequalification and submit bid for the provision of security service at the following:

Location	No. of Guards
1. NHI Main Office, T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila	10 Security Guards
2. Quezon Memorial Shrine, Elliptical Road, Quezon City	3 Security Guards
3. Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine, San Juan, Metro Manila	2 Security Guards
4. Rizal Shrine, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila	2 Security Guards
5. Casa Real Shrine, Malolos, Bulacan	1 Security Guard

Interested parties are advised to present Letter of Intent and photocopy (with original) of their Certificate of Registration of Business Name on **January 21-22, 2002** at the NHI Records Section, National Historical Institute, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila. Photocopy shall be checked against the original document for authentication. Prequalification form and bid documents shall be issued on **January 24-25, 2002.**

Prequalification Statements and price proposals for the subject project shall be submitted to the NHI-BAC in two (2) sealed envelopes on **February 13-14, 2002,** not later than 4:30 PM. No eligibility statement and bid proposal shall be received after the said date and time.

Opening of bids is on **February 28, 2002** at 9:00 AM.

Prequalified agencies shall submit their respective securities in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the total contract cost at the date and time of the opening of bids.

The NHI reserves the right not to open bids at all and restart the bid process, to reject any or all prequalification and/or bids, waive any defects therein, and accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **AUGUSTO V. DE VIANA**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Jan. 18 & 20, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI
Municipality of Sitangkai
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The LGU of Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi has received a loan from ADB thru the DAR for the const. of rural infra projects. The LGU of Sitangkai, thru the Local Chief Executive invites contractors classified by and registered with Inter-Agency Committee on Registration and Classification of contractors (ICRC) as Medium Class "A" to apply for pre-qualification to submit bid for the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LENGTH	LOCATION
• Concreting of Talisay-Pamalikan Farm to Market Road	3.35 kms.	Talisay, Sibutu, Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi

BUDGET COST: Php 12,289,965.96

The contractor shall furnish the necessary materials, labor and equipment needed to complete the project.

That the unskilled labor portion required for the project must be secured in from the available manpower of the community where the project be implemented.

The pre-qualification and bid documents are available for issuance to prospective bidders at the BAC Secretariat, MPDC Office of Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi upon presentation of Letter of Intent and original copies of contractor's License and Registration and payment of non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (Php 3,500.00) PESOS ONLY as bidders fee.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statement and Price Bid Proposals for the project in a sealed envelope shall be submitted to the PBAC Secretariat not later than February 25, 2002 at Sibutu Municipal Hall, Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi.

All participating contractors shall be notified of the results of the evaluation of their Pre-C's, the date and time of the opening of the bids. Pre-qualified contractors, shall submit the amount not less than 5% bid securities of their total bid price during the opening of the sealed bids, while disqualified contractors will receive back their sealed proposals.

All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bid bonds, performance bonds, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the implementing Rules and Regulation of PD 1594, as amended.

The Local Government of Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi, reserve the rights to reject any or all bid proposal, waive any required formally or defect contained therein and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal evaluated is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) TIBLAN C. AHAJA
Municipal Mayor

(PDI - Jan. 14, 18 & 23, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Tacloban City
COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Province of Leyte is inviting all interested dealers and suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

TEN (10) UNITS MOBILE PALAY FLASH DRIER

Bid documents will be issued to pre-qualified bidders at the Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Tacloban City, starting **January 11, 2002.**

Sealed bids will be received by the Committee on Awards until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, **January 23, 2002** at the Briefing Room, 2nd Floor, Provincial Capitol Tacloban City. Public opening of bids will immediately follow. Bids submitted late will not be accepted.

The Province of Leyte reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, and to accept only the bid most advantageous to the provincial government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CATALINO B. PETILLA**
Acting Chairman

(PDI - Jan. 14, 16 & 18, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Solana
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Components for which this invitation to pre-qualify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of SOLANA, CAGAYAN as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to pre-qualify contractors and if pre-qualified, to bid for the construction and completion of:

CONCRETING OF UBONG BARANGAY ROADS (2.460 KM FTMR)

Minimum Equipments required

1 unit Road Grader	-	Owned/Leased
1 unit Vibratory Compactor	-	Owned/Leased
1 unit Water Truck	-	Owned/Leased
2 units Concrete Mixer (1 bagger)	-	Owned
1 unit Concrete Screeder	-	Owned
1 unit Bar Cutter	-	Owned

3. Pre-qualification forms (Pre-C) and bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders at the **Municipal Engineering Office,** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** for each set payable to the Municipal Treasurer. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, **PBAC-ARCP,** Municipality of Solana, Cagayan not later than **January 28, 2002.**
5. The submission and opening of bids will be on **February 27, 2002** at the Conference Hall Office of the Mayor. No bids will be accepted later than 2:00 p.m. of **February 27, 2002.** The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security which could be verified from the Office of the Municipal Engineer.
6. The PBAC-ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO C. DE ASIS**
Chairman, PBAC-ARCP

(PDI - Jan. 18, 19 & 20 2002)

PHILIPPINE NAVY SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION, INC.
(Authorized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig

NOTICE TO ALL PNSLAI MEMBERS:

The Philippine Navy Savings & Loan Association, Inc. will hold its Annual General Membership Meeting on Saturday, **January 26, 2002** at The Seabees Multi-purpose Hall. Registration will start at 8:00 AM.

All members are requested to attend.

COMMO EDUARDO T. DOMINGO AFP (Ret.)
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Grand Fiesta Sale is on

OVER 1,000 retail establishments are now on sale with attractive discounts as big as 70% off in various malls/shopping centers nationwide for the WOW Philippine Grand Fiesta Sale which will last until January 31, 2002.

A joint project of the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), Department of Tourism (DOT), and Philippine Convention & Visitors Corporation (PCVC), WOW Philippines Grand Fiesta Sale is expected to attract both foreign and local tourists in the country.

Touted as the opening salvo for Visit Island Philippines 2003, it aims to promote the country as the shopping paradise in Asia.

Among the major malls/shopping centers joining this event include Ayala Center, Alabang Town Center, Araneta Center, Ali Mall, Farmers Plaza, Ever Gotesco Malls, Festival Supermall, Greenbelt Shopping Plaza, Harrison Plaza, Robinson's Malls, Rutan's Commercial Center, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, SM Supermalls, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Star Mall, and Tutuban Malls.

Additional participating retail establishments are: Odyssey, Penshoppe, Oxygen, The Body Shop, Calvin Klein, Tokyo Fashion, Weinstein Piano, CEO, Francesco, Dickies USA, EP Lacarcel, All Eyes Optical, Arrow, Crabtree & Evelyn, Levi's Dockers Shop, Otto Shoes, Urban, Esprit, Kickers, Joi Boutique, Photoplus, Fotofinish, Kodak Express, JAG, SOS, Hangten, Art Cakes, ABS CBN Studio Store, Bossini, Characters Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Kashieca, A&B Textile, Home Options, Australian Shoes, Peñas Wedding Collection, Le Phil Collection, Citibeds, Footmate, Nun Bush, Scentsations, Paotsin Specialties, Evolution, True Value Hardware, Funtasia, Officing, Plains & Prints, Dermexcel, Unica Hija & Madras, LA Gear, Aficionado Germane Eau de Toilette, Pale Bieue, K Servico, Pieces, Joye Mark, Kuryente, J18, Photoline, The Blanc Shop, Mossimo, Act II, Bells Lighting Bass among others.

For more details call PCVC at 525-1255; 525-9318 or PRA at 687-4985/4181/4180.

INQUIRER TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Horse doze

Q. Can horses really sleep while standing?

A. Horses have the ability to sleep while standing. Their legs are provided with muscular mechanisms which cause them to lock, as it were, and permit the animals to rest somewhat as if they standing on stilts. When a standing horse is unconscious there is no direct brain control over the muscles essential to the maintenance of an erect posture. The muscles in the legs, back and chest are controlled by the reflex actions of the spinal cord. In a similar manner a bird sleeping on swaying limb maintains a reflex balance while its consciousness is in abeyance. Horses sleeping while standing occasionally, though rarely, fall down. More often certain muscles in the forelegs relax suddenly and the horse knuckles over on to the fetlocks (tufts of hair on the back of the horse's legs) and then immediately catches itself.

For the Record. Horses sometimes go on for months without lying down. It is astonishing how little sleep they require. When horses lie down to sleep their eyes usually remain open or partly open, and they sleep so lightly that they are awakened by the faintest sound. They seldom lie long in the same position because their great weight cramps their muscles and prevents the under lung from functioning.

Ooops! It isn't the brain feeling pain when you have a headache. The brain cannot feel pain – it has no pain receptors. The pain you feel in your head is caused by receptors in structures outside the brain, most commonly blood vessels or the covering of the brain (dura mater).

WORD WATCH

Kabesa : from the Spanish *cabeza,* 'head.'

PDI– January 18, 2002

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"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want,
Though I walk in the valley of darkness,
I fear no evil, for God is with me"

Capt. JOSE P. CASTILLO (Ret)

November 26, 1916 - January 16, 2002
Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 85.

Mayor of Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya – 1979-1986, 1988-1995
Chairman & Member, Board of Examiners
for Marine Deck Officers – 1972-1975
Founder, Rural Bank of Bagabag (N.V.), Inc. – 1968
Topnotcher, Board Examination for Masters,
Merchant Marine – 1949
World War II Veteran

His loving wife **Magdalena**; children **Victor, Douglas, Vincent** and **Pura**; daughters-in-law **Lita, Rebecca** and **Reggie**; son-in-law **Jimmy Romero**; grandchildren **Jovy** and **Avigail, Jonathan, Jeffrey, Jennifer** and **Paul Pingul, Angela** and **Edwin Espinosa, Barbara** and **Mark Mazzella, Mark, David, Veronica, Valerie, Joelle, Genevieve, Adelle** and **Camille**; great grandchildren **Katrina, Mark** and **Joseph**; sisters **Salvadora** (†), **Librada** (†), **Anita** (†); brothers **Leopoldo** (†), **Fernando** (†), **Dominador** (†); sisters-in-law **Remedios** and **Pelagia**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join us in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be in Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya. Date to be announced later.

"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me will live,
even though he dies;
and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory

JONATHAN "Johnny" MATTHEW TEE

January 19, 1945 - January 18, 1999

On his Third Death Anniversary

His wife **Linda**; daughter **"Jet-Jet"**; sisters **Bernie** and **Charlotte**; request relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers.

The Holy Mass will be offered at the following churches:

Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	6:15 AM and 6:15 PM
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills	6:00 AM and 6:00 PM
St. Francis Parish Church, Shaw Boulevard	6:30 AM and 6:00 PM
Redemptorist Church, Baclaran	6:45 AM
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes	6:15 AM and 6:00 PM

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

Our Dearly Beloved Mother

CORONA F. JIMENEZ

of Lopez, Quezon and Quezon City

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on January 16, 2002 at the age of 91.

Her beloved children and children-in-law **Sonia - Leonito** (†), **Damian Jr. - Ligaya** (†), **Vilma - Rodolfo, Chona - Gene, Danilo - Mae,** and **Federico - Baby**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Edsa, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

"Death is not the end but the beginning
of the last journey to God"

DR. FERNANDO F. DE GUZMAN M.D.

UST Batch 1939 of Lingayen, Pangasinan

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 14, 2002.

His loving wife **Nenet**; children & in-laws **Rosalie & Felix Caguioa, Freddie & Eva, Mila & Ben Dizon, Fred & Zeny, Fernand & Lita, Nene & George Karavasilis, Zelma & Frank Lopez, Virgie & Pepeng Hidalgo, Mandy & Ida, Jessie & Ming, Tony & Anita**; brothers **Tomas, Tony & Rafael** (†); grandchildren & great grandchildren and all those whose lives he had touched request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the residential house in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 20, 2002 at 8:00 a.m.

MARIA LUISA "MALOU" ANONAS SARINO

Born 23 September 1957
Died 13 January 2002
44 years old

Husband **Mario**; children **Nikki, Gelo, Agol, Membi & MJ**; mother **Dadie**; father **Raymundo**; brothers **Victor, Dindo, Aris**; sister **Rowena**; niece and nephews; beloved sisters-in-law.

Her body lies in state at Sta. Ana Church Mortuary.

Interment will be on Saturday, 19 January 2002 after 8:00 AM Mass at Bacoor Memorial Garden, Bacoor, Cavite.

Ernesto "Tong" Molina Balangue

Former NEDA Director

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 4, 2002
at the age of 60 in Davao City.

His family, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel F, Second Floor, Loyola Memorial Chapel, Edsa corner Bernardino, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati.

Cremation will be on Sunday, January 20, 2002, 8:00 a.m. at Crematorium, Makati after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

RENATO E. VICENCIO

Of Lucena City, Quezon

Has joined his Creator on January 14, 2002
at the age of 39.

His remains lie in state at Celeste Funeral Homes, Lucena City.

Interment will be on January 19, 2002 at St. Ferdinand Memorial Park, Lucena City after the 2:00 PM Mass at the St. Ferdinand Cathedral, Lucena City.

VIRGINIA MIJARES DIEGOR

A retired teacher of
Gregoria de Jesus Elementary School,
Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila.

Joined her Creator on January 15, 2002
at the age of 81.

Her remains lie in state at
31 San Diego Street, Marulas, Valenzuela.

Interment will be on Sunday,
January 20, 2002 at the
Holy Cross Memorial Park at 9:00 AM.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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& CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577

MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; 522-8783; (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel,
27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

Marketing 101 for LGUs–keep a scorecard

BY EDUARDO L. ROBERTO
Professor of Marketing
Asian Institute of Management

(First of two parts)

A CRITICAL question confronting our political leaders these days is: How can constituency-responsive governance work?

Governance is relationship management. It is about how those at the helm of government manage their relationships with their constituency, their customers. In this sense, it is like marketing, because marketing is all about how to establish, maintain and deepen the marketer's relationship with the customers.

So what is good marketing and therefore good governance?

According to the leading marketing authority Kotler: "Marketing is a learning game. You make a decision. You watch the results. You learn from the results. Then you make better decisions."

In this game, all sorts of things can go wrong with any governance initiative or program after its launching. Identification of the constituents' priority needs may be wrong. And even when this is correct, the translation of those needs into the initiative's service offering may be wrong.

Or else, the Information Education Communication campaign and/or its chosen media mix and schedule may be wrong. Even the service staff and program implementers may wrongly behave towards the target constituents.

These and similar errors that planners' and implementers' may commit can lead to the constituency's disappointments.

When any of these adverse possibilities happen, it is critical for the governing head to find out why things have not turned out as planned and to then quickly take corrective actions.

To find out what has gone wrong and to take corrective actions require that the plan's unattained objectives and goals are clear, and their metrics, just as clear. This is precisely what today's advocates of a governance scorecard or report card are concerned about.

Keeping a scorecard

It was Harvard Business School professor of accounting Robert Kaplan who popularized the scorecard concept and further championed the "balanced scorecard."

He defined it as "a set of measures that gives top managers a fast but comprehensive view of the business. It includes the financial measures that tell the results of actions already taken.

And it complements the financial measures with operational measures on customer satisfaction, internal processes, and the organization's innovation and improvement activities—operational measures that are the drivers of future financial performance."

However, I am more concerned about the "final" scorecard, and not simply a balanced scorecard. The final scorecard is the scorecard from the constituents.

It is the constituents' grading of the way a particular governance initiative or set of initiatives is delivering the constituents' priority expectations and needs.

I call it "final" because it refers to how governance is satisfying the final or end-beneficiaries, the constituents.

Final arbiter

In my forthcoming book on "How to Make Local Governance Work—Listening to the Citizen's Voice and Taking Action: the Final Scorecard" (AIM, 2002), I argued that the constituents are the final judges of good or bad governance.

I also detailed how to earn high final scorecard grades and therefore satisfactorily create, maintain and deepen relationships with constituents.

1. Do a valid citizens' feedback research. Get data about constituents' priority needs and concerns from scientifically designed surveys and testing of citizens' feedback and opinions.

Make sure that the surveys and tests are scientifically correct, because if they are not, then the database for governance initiatives is no better than the quick and dirty backyard studies.

2. Deepen the insights from surveys. Do this by integrating qualitative research into quantitative citizens' feedback surveys.

Chapter 2 of my book relates a specific case that typifies the many occasions when making the two types of research complement each other can deepen the insights derived from surveys.

Learn from this case. Treating the two research techniques as complementary contrasts with the conventional practice of using them as mutually exclusive or sequential, but separate, alternative research approaches for understanding constituent priorities and behavior. Take the former track and avoid the conventional approach.

3. Set up and organize a citizens' feedback research system. There are two kinds of critical citizens' feedback research to set up. The first is a monitoring research that tracks the constituents' perceptions of improved or deteriorating governance.

Concerns

In the process, one learns about their changing priority concerns and expectations that, in turn, should help shape the direction of one's own priority initiatives.

The second kind of citizens' feedback research is an anticipatory and predictive research that can find out how target constituents will respond to a planned initiative or project. This serves as a guide on how to sharpen the initiative and successfully gain favorable response from targeted constituents.

With these two complementary research programs, one is fully armed about what, and what else, should be done with current, as well as future, governance initiatives.

Setting up and organizing these research studies require, and can start with, a very lean and mean team of three people (e.g., a local governance research center executive director, an assistant and an office administrator).

The team can outsource all of the fieldwork and data tabulation requirements of the center's research projects.

3. Do the right constituents' need analysis. Learn about the changing needs of constituents and correctly analyze their priority concerns so that correct and appropriate actions can be taken.

Survey

This is the objective of the citizens' feedback monitoring survey.

Do this survey every six months or at least annually. In analyzing constituents' priorities, do not follow the conventional needs analysis, which equates the citizens' top priority concern with their top-rated most serious concern.

Instead, get the constituents to rate their serious concerns according to how they see the government as NOT doing anything about it.

Even if a concern is rated as the most serious problem, it would not necessarily be the citizens' top priority concern if they see the government as already doing something about this problem.

The constituents' top priority concern is seen as both a very serious concern, and at the same time, as being neglected by the government.

There is a third factor to consider. Citizens will not expect an LGU leader to solve a top priority concern if they believe that this is for resolution at the national level.

4. Check with your constituents any new initiatives as well as changes in an ongoing one. When an incumbent LGU official wants to introduce a new initiative or change an ongoing initiative because of perceived changes in the political, economic, social and technological environment, he/she should take time out to first test the constituents' reaction to the planned change.

Getting this advanced notice of citizens' approval or disapproval has two advantages. Firstly, it will minimize risk of failure. Second and more importantly, it will provide the all-important insights for improving and fine-tuning the planned initiative and correcting its weaknesses as defined by the constituents.

5. Carefully translate constituents' preferences into the appropriate service design. This is to make sure that the initiative's service package has what it takes to deliver what was promised, in order to satisfy what the pretest research indicated as most wanted and expected by the constituents.

To do this in a systematic and comprehensive way, apply the Total Quality Management's technique of "Quality Function Deployment" and "House-of-Quality Analysis." *(To be continued)*

Beware of paying VAT

BY MA. CARMELA M. PERALTA
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

SOME VAT-registered suppliers still charge export enterprises registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) with the 10-percent Value Added Tax on purchases for goods and/or services, despite the provisions of Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 74-99. Peza-registered export enterprises, however, should think twice before they pay the 10-percent VAT, otherwise, they will end up absorbing the VAT which should not have been passed on in the first place.

Under RMC 74-99, which became effective in October 1999, sales of goods and/or services by VAT-registered customs territory suppliers to Peza-registered export enterprises are not subject to the VAT.

Before the issuance of the RMC, Peza-registered export enterprises had to file for a refund or tax credit certificates with the DOF-OSS.

The DOF-OSS is the government agency tasked under Administrative Order No. 266 to handle VAT refund claims of exporters.

Certain questions, however, remain unanswered.

For example, until when can Peza-registered export enterprises get reimbursed for the 10-percent VAT paid to their customs territory suppliers?

Conversely, will the export firms be allowed to credit the 10-percent VAT shouldered by Peza-registered export enterprises against any 10-percent output VAT that may be due them in the future?

Needless to say, Peza-registered export enterprises should carefully review the invoices sent to them by their Customs Territory suppliers and verify that no 10-percent VAT is passed on.

Since Section 4.108-1 of Revenue Regulations No. 7-95 requires that invoices or receipts for zero-rated sales should show the words "zero-rated" imprinted on them, the invoices sent by the customs territory suppliers to Peza-registered export enterprises should be stamped "zero-rated." Otherwise, the amounts appearing in these invoices are deemed inclusive of the 10-percent VAT pursuant to Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 8-99.

Under RR 8-99, the 10-percent VAT is no longer allowed to be separately indicated in the receipts or sales or commercial invoices issued by VAT-registered taxpayers, and the amount appearing in them is deemed inclusive of the VAT.

Hence, if Peza-registered export enterprises pay the 10-percent VAT, they will have to go through the hassle of seeking reimbursement from their customs territory suppliers or end up unnecessarily shouldering the 10-percent VAT as part of their cost.

(For comments, e-mail to sgvmail@Andersen WO.)

80-year-old mag gets facelift, makes folks take second look

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

MARKETING STRATEGY

EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD Reader's Digest recently went through minor surgery—not the physical kind but one that concerned the look and the marketing objectives of the magazine.

Since September last year, the monthly publication started putting out a small photo of a celebrity on the cover, veering away from the magazine's practice since 1998 of featuring ordinary individuals with extraordinary experiences on the cover.

JEFFERY

DOCKRILL

YAU

Before 1998, the cover just featured the contents of the magazine and the pages where the articles are found.

Reader's Digest Association Far East Ltd. officials who arrived in Manila recently to go on a press blitz to announce the changes, said the surgery was part of the company's thrust of giving the magazine a new look to keep up with the times.

Peter Dockrill, editor of the Asia edition, said, "like any relevant established brand, we try to make it fresh, relevant and contemporary to our readers. But the DNA is the same."

He further explained that the move was prompted partly by the desire to design one cover that would cater to both the retail and subscribers' markets.

In the past, Reader's Digest would put a second cover that listed the "talkable topics" inside the current issue. The subscribers' copies did not carry the second cover.

But associate publisher Peter Jeffery admitted the move was also prompted by the need to increase newsstand sales. In the Philippines, sales of the magazine have remained the same with only 10 percent coming from newsstand while the rest are subscription-based.

Like any publication, Reader's Digest needs to continually increase its base to remain competitive.

Jeffery said the change was meant to "get people's attention. We will get more noticeable."

Most consumers have become very people-oriented, and in the Philippines, the person featured on the cover often dictates the sales of some of the magazines.

Dockrill admitted a celebrity cover is for "immediate recognition."

He added that "the world is a changing place. We initiated a series of changes in the past. We wanted to give it a contemporary feel."

Ultimately, he said it was a "branding exercise."

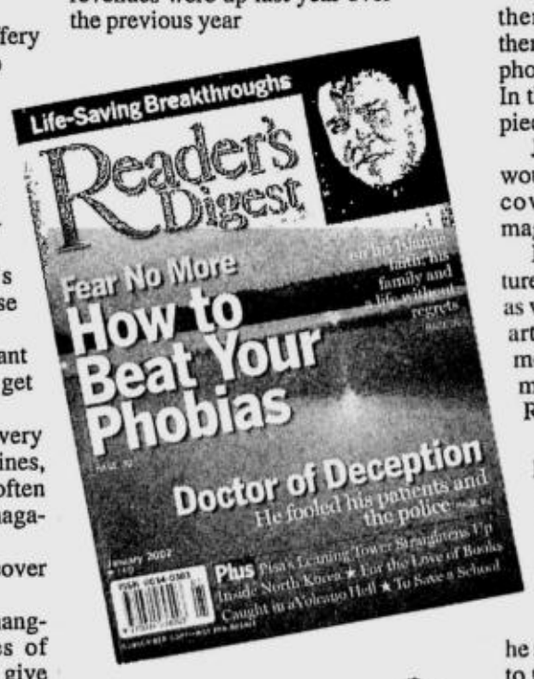
Jeffery claimed newsstand sales in the Philippines increased by between 6 and 19 percent, depending on the person featured in the cover.

In the Philippines, which is the largest market for its English edition, there are over 100,000 subscribers.

The associate publisher said they were optimistic that the reformatted cover would boost local sales because of its experience in the United States.

The changes were introduced in the United States earlier, in May. He said the introduction of celebrities on the cover, which started with Tom Hanks, increased newsstand sales by 10 percent.

Jeffery also claimed their advertising revenues were up last year over the previous year (Reader's Digest operates on a fiscal year from June to July), and they were expecting a 30-percent increase this year.



Asked about their good performance, Jeffery said, "our circulation is very strong. During difficult economic times, we are a safe haven for advertisers."

Reader's Digest regional corporate communications director Rosemarie Yau said their sales remained strong because the people these days wanted to go back to basics.

This meant reading simple and relaxing stories that nourished the mind and the spirit, Yau said.

One of the magazine's distinct features is its back cover, which is not sold to advertisers. The back cover is a premium page and advertisers pay a higher price.

Reader's Digest has adopted a themed back cover, and the current theme is the next generation. It features photos of the youth and a brief on them. In the past, the back covers featured art pieces.

Jeffery said they feel their readers would not want to see an ad on the back cover, and their needs are the magazine's priority.

Reader's Digest is known for its features on the triumphs of the human spirit, as well as its frailties. It carries feel-good articles and points on self-improvement. Yau added that it is not uncommon for Asians to learn English from Reader's Digest.

When they did a survey among Filipino readers on which personality they want to see on the cover, the No. 1 answer was Pope John Paul II.

Dockrill says their people in Europe are trying to work on a feature. He is not optimistic about getting an interview with the Pope but he said they might settle for people close to the Pontiff.

Want great ads? Keep them simple

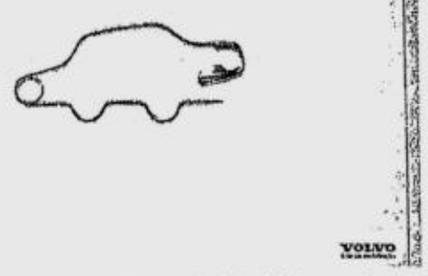
(From page B10)

to read as a small book.

But how many can you actually remember without looking back?

How many surprised and delighted you by interrupting the stories?

Did any leave you feeling warmer toward the advertiser than before?



ZEN-LIKE simplicity of this Volvo ad was achieved with the brand's consistent message of "safety."

Or did you hurry quickly on, as if avoiding a persistent real estate broker or car salesman. And then blot the whole thing out of your mind as if it never happened.

It's a terrible fact. But very few people are as interested in what you're selling as you are. And those are probably your competitors.

You have to focus your ad on one thing. And, as the world has discovered, if you can say that thing visually, you can say it quicker.

As Luke Sullivan, who wrote the opening paragraph, says: "A simple ad is more effective because there is less in it for a reader to object to. Fewer things to pick away at. Presented with a simple ad, a reader sees less chance for duplicity or subterfuge."

Here are some examples.

Volvo. The zen-like simplicity of this famous ad could only have been achieved with the brand's consistent message of "safety." It simply wouldn't have been possible if the agency had to talk about the automatic transmission as well.

Tabasco. Hot sauce is a great, simple proposition to communicate. Many great ads have been done for this brand, yet there is always a fresh way to approach it. A great example of one consistent message, enhanced by continued repetition.

The problem with the visual solution is, it looks easy. Even lazy.

The reality is quite the opposite. Being single-minded is extremely difficult. Simply expressing an idea is even more so. Why bother? Because your readers have no interest in reading your sales pitch. And because there have never been more demands on their attention than now.

By all means communicate your other product benefits in different ways. Write an article, use public relations or lead people to a website. But remember an ad is best used as a shop window—as an experience of the brand and as a way of communicating the one thing you want to be remembered for.

So next time your agency shows you an empty-looking ad, don't think they haven't done their homework. As the writer once said, "I'm sorry for writing such a long letter, I didn't have time to write you a short one."

BUSINESS*Friday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Want great ads? Keep them simple

BY DAVID GUERRERO
Chair and ECD, BBDO/Guerrero Ortega.

SIMPLE is best.

"Watch someone in the airport read a magazine. They whip through, usually backwards, at about 2 seconds per page. They glance at a clock on the wall. They turn a page. They think about the desperate, pimpled loneliness of their high school years. They look at a page. They see your ad."

I came across this description in a 'Guide to Creating Great Ads.' And it is worth bearing in mind as you spend hours in meetings deciding how many extra addresses or bullet points of copy you want included.

The fact is, you have to concentrate on the visual impact of the ad above all. There are very, very few people who buy the newspaper so they can look at the ads. I know because I'm one of them. I also change channels at the end of commercial breaks but that's another story.

The one message in most books on advertising is: Keep it simple. (Although they then take about 300 pages to explain that.) But let's just assume, for a moment, that it is true. You make your ad simple. More people see it. So more people remember it. And so your sales go up. Easy. Except of course that it isn't.

In the real world, every product or service (not just yours) has about, let's see, seven really interesting things to say about itself. Surely, the argument goes, you need to bombard the reader with every fact at your disposal. Put in graphs, charts and comparisons. Give them stacks of quotes and third-party endorsements.

This is why advertisers will always insist that an ad cannot possibly run without the seven vital bits of information that readers or viewers are just dying to hear about.

At this point in a meeting, a good advertising agency will tell its client: "If all those seven points are equally important, you really need to do seven ads, so you can bring each point out properly."

However a client may interpret this as a devious plot by the agency to do more ads so it can make more money. Which, to be fair, is partly true. So, suspicions aroused, the client will then insist all seven points go in the original ad. They may even pick up a brochure of a competing ad agency from their desk and start flicking through it.

So the agency then puts back all seven points—plus perhaps an eighth one to make sure—and the meeting concludes.

It's a shame because the result is against the client's best interest. An ideal solution may have been to cover

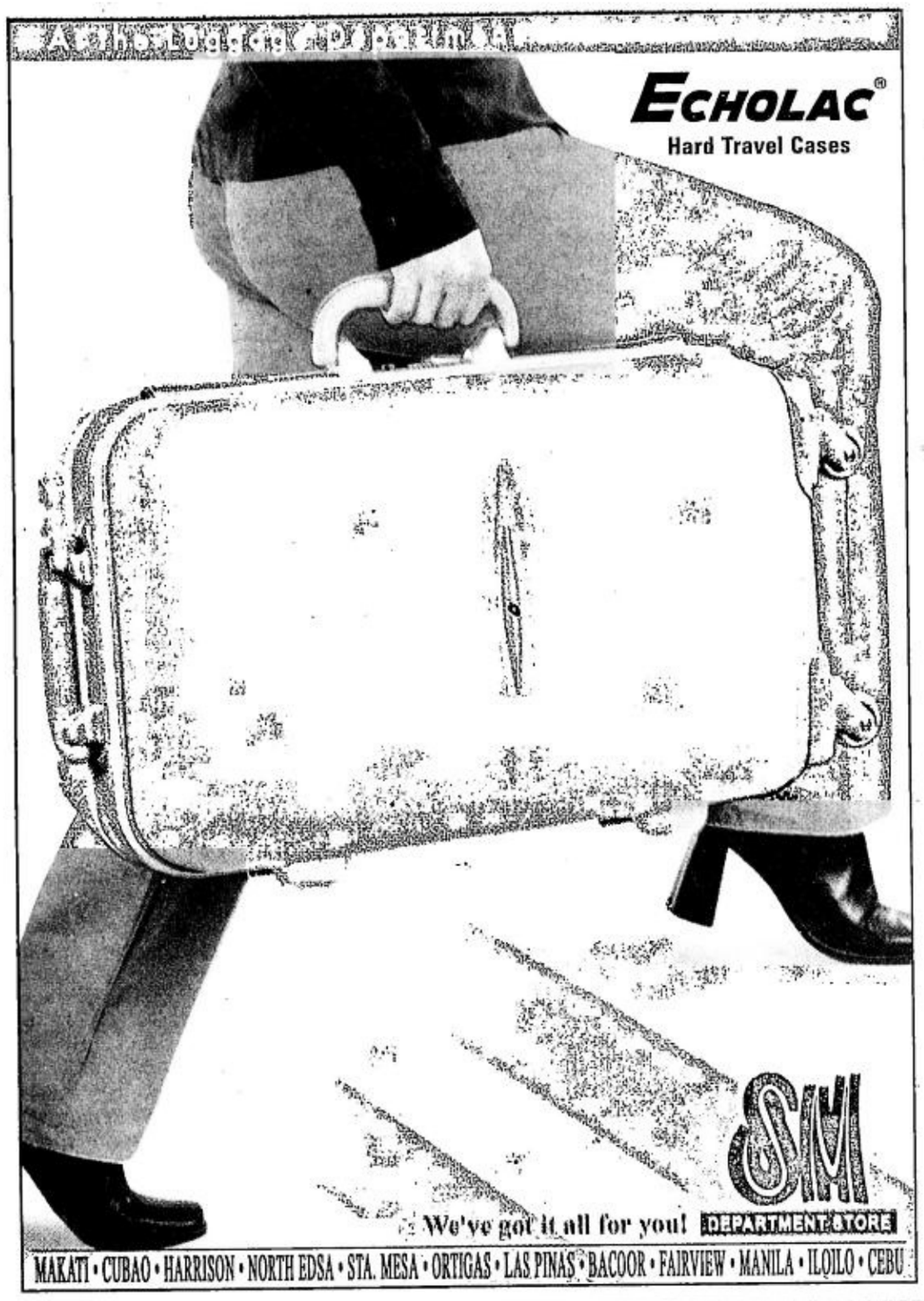
EXAMPLE of one consistent message.

three points in three ads. Or better still, one point repeated three different ways. After all, an agency can only prosper if its clients do, too.

However, a look at the ads in today's newspaper will give you a fair idea of how things are going now. Based on past experience they will all be quite wordy.

Many will have BIG HEADLINES! Some will be in color. Some full-page commemorative epics might take as long

WANT/ B9



Bite ₱2,510 off the price of a Motorola T189

Top off your Hawaiian Zinger combo with a cellphone treat. Get the new Motorola T189 for only ₱4,990. Grab the opportunity at any KFC outlet until January 31, 2002 only.

per DTI-NCR permit number 2043 series of 2001

Mobile Phones
Customer Care Line
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
FOR FEEDBACK, TEXT US AT (0919) 661-2337 OR E-MAIL US AT LIFESTYLE@INQUIRER.COM.PH
LIFESTYLE
Trend Zeitgeist
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

FREE MUG!
Just buy a dozen Dunkin' Donuts and ORIGINAL Coffee.
Available in 2 COLORS
Promo period is from January 1 to 21, 2002

Lessons from Yves Saint Laurent

YVES Saint Laurent is retiring. This news, which we first mentioned in last week's column, may be so irrelevant to your struggle for daily survival, no matter that he's considered the world's greatest living designer. But allow us nonetheless to write up the man lengthily, if only for two things:

First, the shapes and styles of the clothes—most of them anyway—you've been wearing for the past four decades, you owe to the man who revolutionized silhouettes and updated the mood of clothes in a way that even the great **Christian Dior** and **Chanel** did not (perhaps for the obvious reason that the latter two died much earlier and reigned much shorter). Saint Laurent, known simply as YSL to the Western man on the street (and the smokers), paved the way for **Armani** and the late 20th-century breed of haute couture (made-to-order) and ready-to-wear designers.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

The retirement of the man who was 'born with a nervous breakdown' marks the passing of an era that saw great upheavals in dressing, many of them caused by him

Second, reading up on his life and career was among the things that made fashion coverage, for me, a learning exercise. As I read the life stories of Saint Laurent, Chanel (the drama of her many lovers, particularly) and Dior, and the odysseys of their creations, I got convinced that fashion, which I dismissed in my activist-college years as superficial and only for bimbos (thus "counter-revolutionary"), was a field not only worth reporting on, but actually could be exciting and stimulating. I owe this to my friend, **Auggie Cordero**, who introduced me to these books, if only because he needed somebody to discuss them with.

THE TRAPEZE dress that saved the house of Dior

It is uncanny that Saint Laurent announced his retirement last week, early January, the anniversary of Chanel's death. Coco Chanel, who liberated women from restricting clothes of the early 20th century, died on Jan. 10, 1971.

Chanel's death didn't stop the world. And Saint Laurent's retirement—his last collection will be shown on Jan. 22—won't either. But his departure from fashion, as his empire is taken over by **Gucci** and **Tom Ford** (whom I was so lucky to meet about six years ago), marks the passing of an era that saw great upheavals in women's dressing, many of them caused by Saint Laurent.

Innovations

To start with, the pantsuit you're wearing was an innovation by Saint Laurent at a time when it wasn't considered feminine for women to be in pants for serious day and evening occasions. His trouser suits in the '70s changed all that.

The shift, which has undergone countless evolutions, was another Saint Laurent signature. In 1957, after Dior died, the 21-year-old Saint Laurent had to step into his shoes in the house of Dior and on the shoulders of this insecure but artistic man fell the burden of perpetuating the Dior legacy. In his first collection after Dior's death, he designed the trapeze dress—a non-constricting silhouette devoid of paddings and linings associated with the older Dior, and much lighter. The trapeze not only made a sensation for the young Dior heir, it also changed the way women dress in the late '50s.

In the '60s, he caught the wave of pop art and Op art, and designed the Mondrian shift—a dress that bore the geometric figures of the artist **Mondrian**, who was known for his abstracts. The dress was a wonder, the critics noted, in that it allowed room for the woman's curves while appearing as flat as a painting's surface. The Mondrian—and its attendant geometric shapes—continues to be an influence not only in fashion but also in interior design.

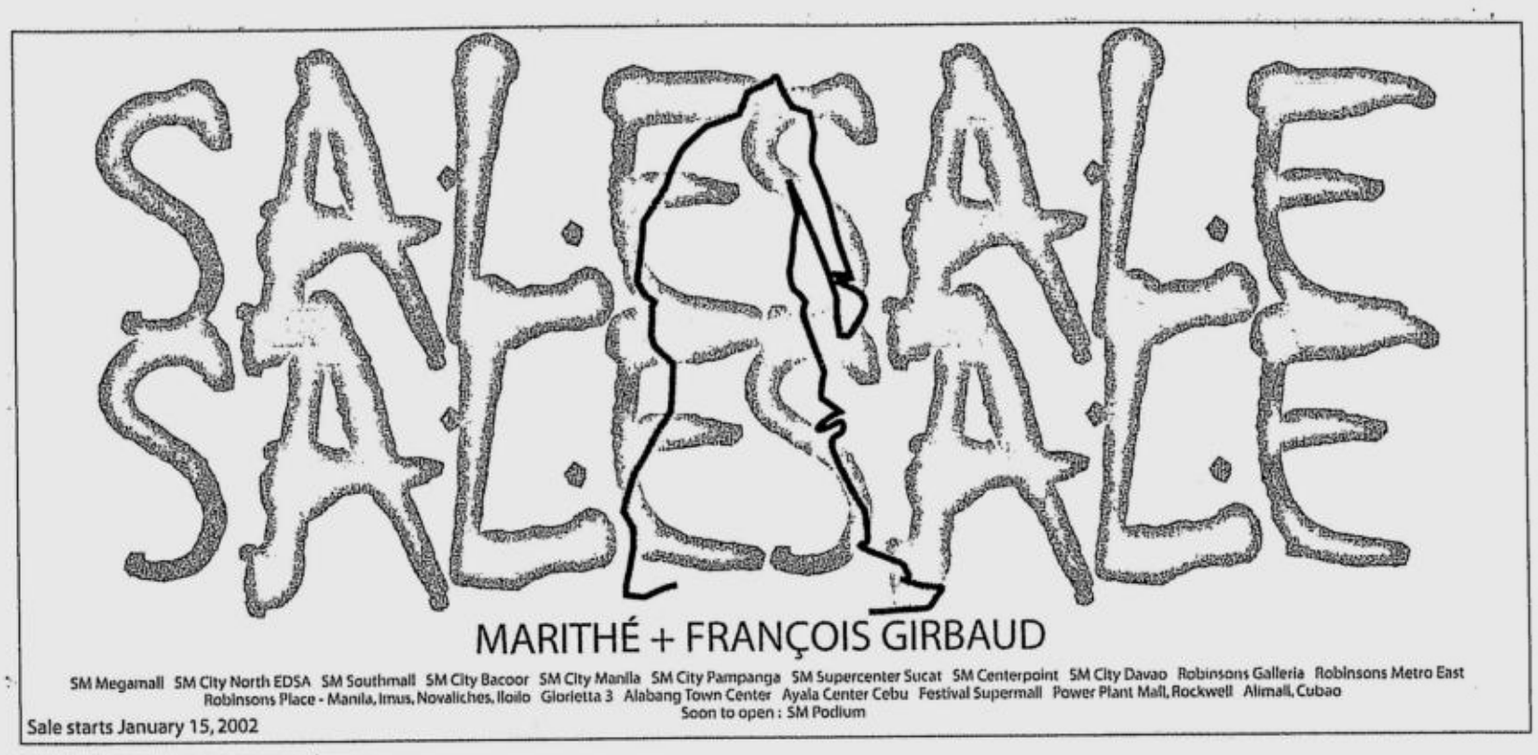
Today's girls are now into the look of the gypsy and peasant style again—that's the Saint Laurent of the late '60s.

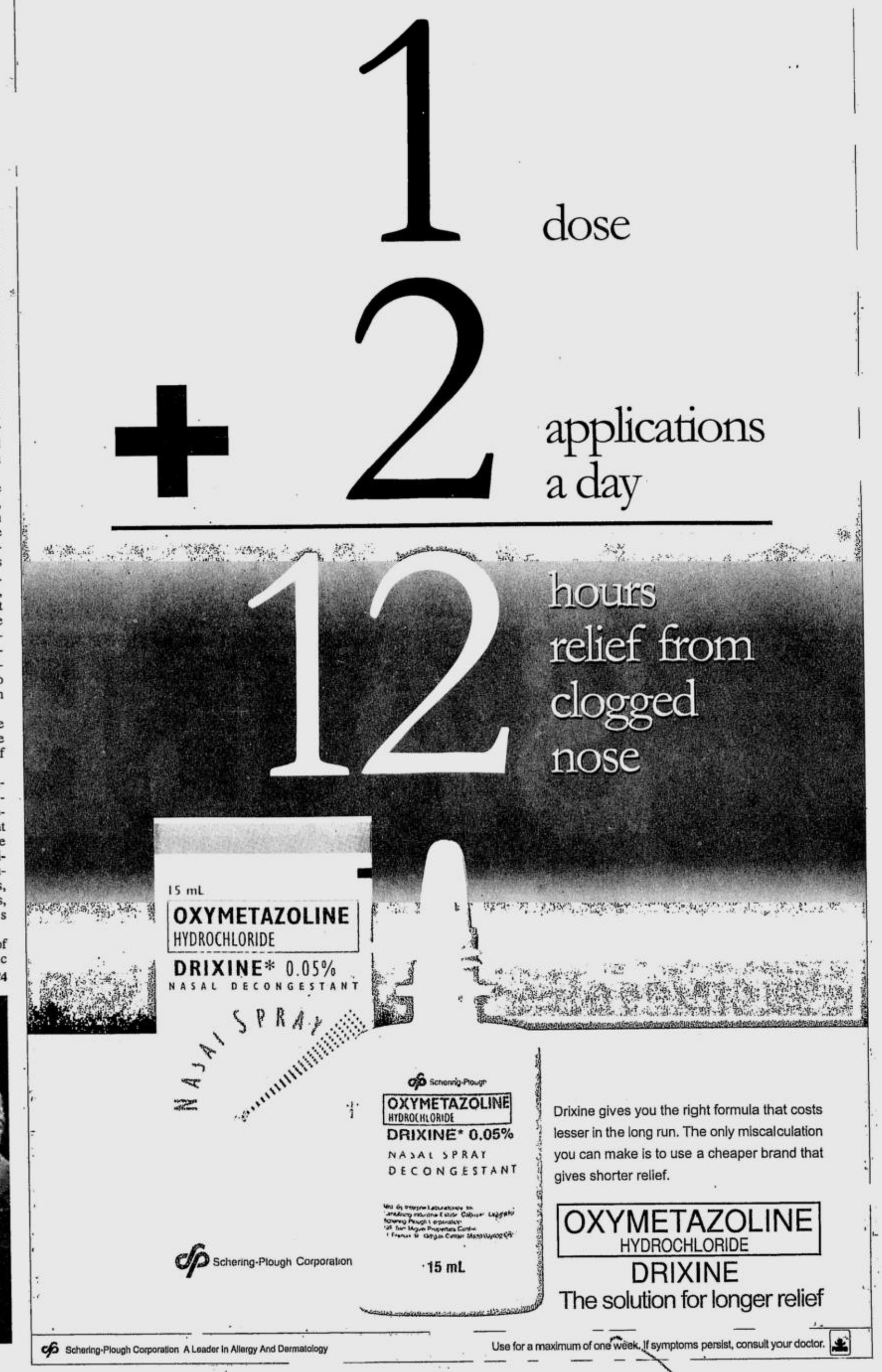
In the mid-'70s, Saint Laurent introduced his "Ballet Russes" collection, dressing his models like theatrical heroines, for Saint Laurent has always been in love with the theater. He was inspired by **Diaghilev**'s "Ballet Russes" of pre-revolutionary Russia—billowing skirts, shawls, harem pants in jewel colors, the sight of which made Vogue's **Grace Mirabella** swoon.

From such fantasy dressing of Saint Laurent derives the romantic

LESSONS/ p.C4

YSL and the model-bride in last season's show





Going bananas in the Year of the Horse

TO KICK off the Year of the Horse, designer Dita Sandico-Ong collaborates with Kublai Millan of Davao to give the traditional barong a new twist.

Dita Sandico-Ong updates the barong by reinventing the banana fabric and making a pitch for the natural

THE BARONG may look delicate but the fibers are strong.

Dita hasn't produced a men's collection in a long time. The interval has allowed her to experiment with linen, *piña*, *piña-lino*, *abaca*, *sinamay*, *abel Iloko*, *ikat* and other native fibers and weaves. She has sculpted the *sinamay* and endowed the otherwise coarse fabric with sensuality. She has also dyed banana in dramatic monochrome and given it glamour.

Dita focuses the spotlight on the banana through her new barong shirts. "Before, the fabric was heavier," she said. "It was difficult [to use] for embroidery. Now, our product development staffers have told us it was 'ripe' enough to start making use of banana for barong."

Softer in texture, the new banana fabric is lighter in shade than the usual ecru or beige. Its users don't have to worry about drowning in a sea of uniform-colored barongs.

The new collection includes such details as Chinese collars and buttons, while maintaining its native-natural-fiber uniqueness. "Unlike *jusi*, which is very fine, with banana you can still see the imperfections. It's like wearing a *piña*. It has its own stamp," Dita said.

The naturalness of the cloth makes it best for these tropical climes, where people need cooler, lighter fabric. "It's more friendly. It's also organic, more environmental," Dita said.

Design is just the beginning. "The banana fabric supports a whole system—the planting, harvesting, weaving," she said. "It's like striking a sort of ecological balance. When you think about it, it's like sustaining a whole ecosystem—you're giving back to the people and to the earth [the benefits of] what you do."

She has always been conscious of this role, having helped out countless communities with the production of the fibers.

Easily, Dita could have gone the way of more traditional fashionistas: the seasonal rave show, giving the public and fashion cognoscenti with a "must-have" now and then.

But Dita has always wanted more. "You have to get into more challenging activities," she said. One of these activities is focused on the Earthlite Center and Foundation, which Dita and her friends established three years ago.

Based on the fourth floor of the COD Building in Cubao, the center is home to organizations educating and servicing the general public on holistic methods to health and well-being. It is host to an organic food café and a reflexology clinic, and offers meditation and movement classes, among others. On Jan. 29, it will hold a Mass for healing at 6 p.m. led by Fr. Mike Lambino.

To present her new collection, Dita commissioned Davao-based, multimedia artist Kublai Millan to create installation works. He unwittingly conveyed the same message she tried to say. "I guess we were both able to send the message to see the barong in a different way—traditionally, culturally, artistically—making people go beyond a certain image [of the barong]," Dita said.

While other designers get an image model and present sexual images to attract attention, Dita and Kublai opted for "symbols and elements, [a way] to make people think better for their environment," she said. "If we are able to touch people that way, then we're moving forward. Let's just see how people accept these things."

Cache and Lakshmi, Dita's labels, can be found at Filipiniana Rustan's Makati; Filipiniana Rustan's Tower; One Beverly Place, Annapolis, Greenhills; and Earthlite, 4/F COD Building, Cubao, QC.

CONVENTIONAL barong gets a modern twist.

CAPTURING the lightness and airiness of the barong.

CALM waters symbolize the fluidity of emotions. The barong reflects the Eastern coolness.

End of Season
SALE
UP TO 50% OFF
January 18 - March 14, 2002
Glorietta II
Megamall B
Shangri-la Plaza
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0035 Series of 2002
READY TO WEAR

Fix your hair with 'water'

KEEP your hairstyle in place without the obvious look of being gelled.

Gel'O has the ability of a gel to "fix" hair, but with the natural texture of water. When rubbed between your hands, the product becomes liquid like water and can be applied easily and evenly on hair, without creating clumps. It does not harden the hair and does not weigh it down, leaving it looking perfectly natural.

Gel'O is suitable for trendy young people who want easier, natural hairstyles. Retailing at P230, Gel'O is available in two types: for short hair and for longer hair.

Gel'O makes styling easier. It also helps "discipline" rebellious locks, adds body and volume, and highlights a lock of hair.

For easy hairstyling and a long-lasting natural effect, L'Oréal also presents FX STYLE'O from Studio Line, a perfect mix of cosmetic qualities and natural hold.

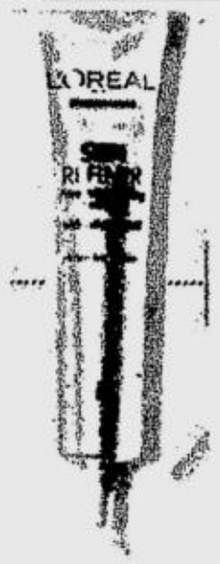
Protect your skin from pollution

STRESS, pollution and hormonal factors could cause enlarged pores. Dr. Keiko Takahashi, a specialist in dermatology and consultant for L'Oréal Skincare Laboratories, advises the use of skin-care products, which regulate excess sebum production that causes enlarged pores, unclog pores and gently exfoliate the skin's surface.

He says the new Skin Refiner Pure Minimizing Range from L'Oréal containing salicylic acid and algae extract is the ideal solution for even and smooth skin. It is perfectly adapted to Asian women's skin.

Takahashi adds that the product will also be suitable for dealing with irregular skin texture which results from the accumulation of excess dead cells at the surface of the skin that clog the pores.

L'Oréal skin-care products aim to give women visibly more beautiful skin at every stage of their lives. Every year, company researchers produce 3,000 new formulas and get more than one cosmetic patent per day. Combining unique high performance ingredients and cutting-edge technology, L'Oreal Research Centers in Paris and Tokyo are committed to lead advanced studies on Asian skin and to develop innovative formulas that perfectly meet Asian women's needs.



Refresh those achy legs

NU Skin, a personal care division of Nu Skin Enterprises (NYSE: NUS), introduces Epoch IceDancer Invigorating Leg Gel, a clear, cooling formula that leaves legs refreshed and revived.

Epoch IceDancer Invigorating Leg Gel is formulated with natural wild mint used by Native Americans for treating aches and pains. It also has horse chestnut, eucalyptus and peppermint oil, enhancing the overall cooling effect and providing instant relief for tired, achy legs.

As with all Epoch products, $0.25 from the sale of every IceDancer product will be donated to Nu Skin's Force for Good Foundation and used "to assist in the preservation of life, the continuation of indigenous cultures and the protection of fragile environments."

Meanwhile, Rosalynn Summers, three-time United States Figure Skating Champion and Olympic silver medalist, and Yuka Sato, two-time Japanese Figure Skating Olympian, World Champion and reigning World Professional Champion, have become spokespersons for Nu Skin and the new IceDancer product.

Call 689-0333 or visit www.nuskin.com.ph.

Makeup creates pure look

MAYBELLINE New York introduces Pure Stay Two Way Foundation, long-wearing makeup.

The latest innovation with special oil absorbers assures makeup that's pure and transparent for up to eight hours. Blue micro powder helps diffuse light on the skin, cleverly concealing imperfections to create an impeccably pure and transparent look.

Pure Stay Two Way Foundation in six shades—Pure Ivory, Pure Nude, Pure Beige, Pure Sand, Pure Ocher and Pure Tan—will be available in January at leading department stores and supermarkets nationwide for P460.

PLASMALITE
Now in Manila ! !

Say goodbye to wrinkles, pimples, unwanted hair, tattoos, freckles, age spots, birth marks, and many more skin disorders with PLASMALITE - the multi-functional machine that treats without harming the skin.

No downtime, no cutting, no injection.

Ask your dermatologist about it....
For sales and other inquiries call
THE ORETA MEDICAL CLINIC
Tel: 7211676 or 7211602

PLASMALITE.

This machine really works... ...no more stretch marks!!!

Sunshine Cruz

Sale

HANG Ten Phils., a casual clothing brand, welcomes the year 2002 with a nationwide sale offering up to 70 percent discount on almost all items until Jan. 31.

Shirts, pants, shoes, belts, caps, socks, underwear and fragrances are available at affordable prices.

Hang Ten's New Year Sale promo is also in preparation for the arrival of Hang Ten's newest collections of shirts, pants and accessories to be released next month.

Hang Ten has 31 branches all over Metro Manila, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu (Ayala Center), Iloilo, Davao, SM Pampanga and Gaisano Davao, Pacific Mall in Legazpi City and SM Davao. All Hang Ten products are imported.

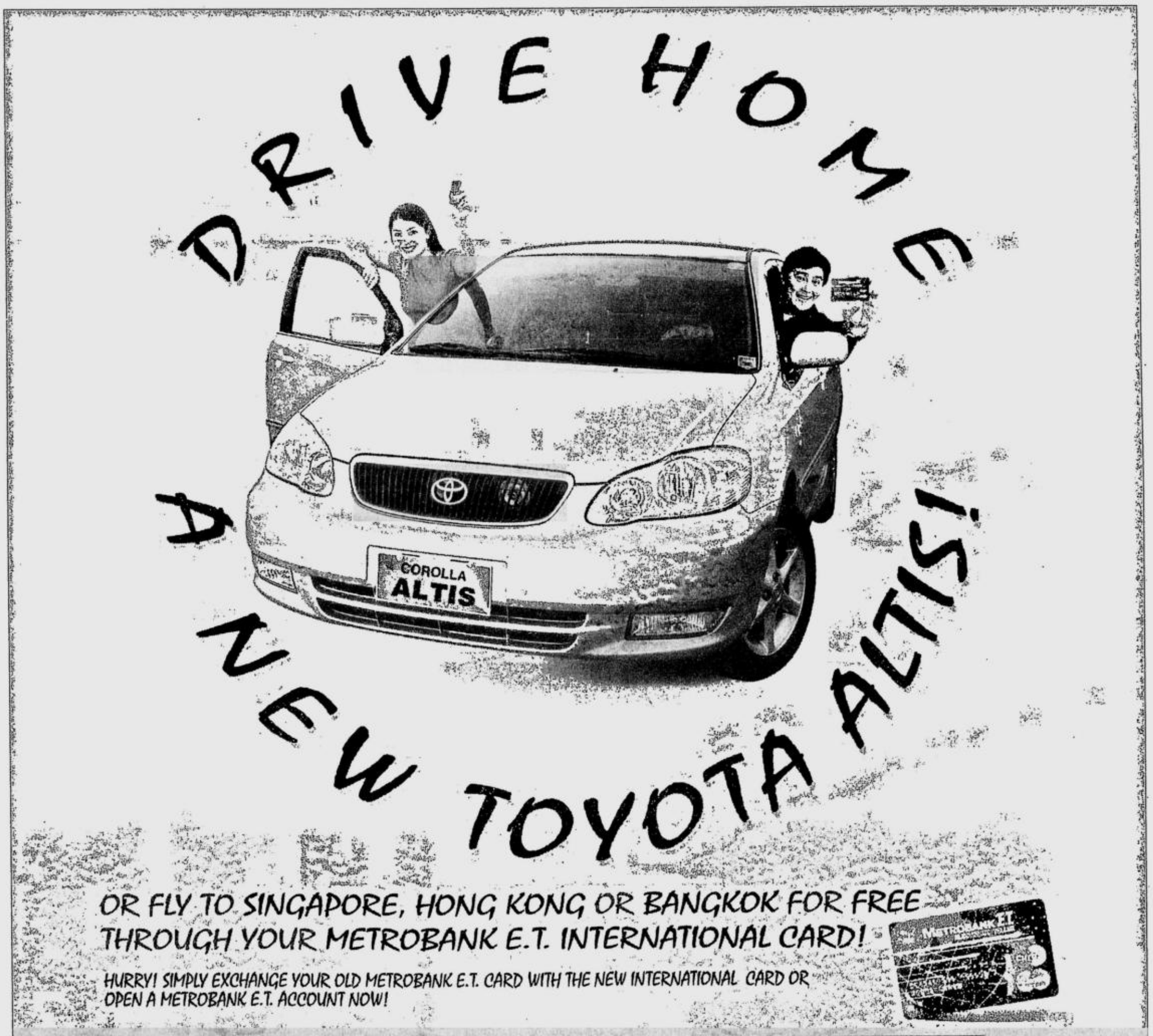
Go punk

KICKERS presents its Punk and Varsity collections. Woven bottoms and knitted tops highlight the Punk collection. Jeans feature unique designs. Kenton and Kendall, for example, are unisex five-pocket button-fly pants that have interesting cuts. The Kareem is a pair of semi-flared, button-fly pants that has a 9-inch zipper at the lower back leg area.

A great match to these bottoms is the men's regular woven shirt with prints, while gals will love to wear the woven short-sleeved blouse with exciting prints matched with vibrant colors.

Ladies who opt for knitted tops will adore short-sleeved tee with eccentric prints and long-sleeved tees with fabulous colors and designs. For the guys, there are long-sleeves fitted tees that bring out the contours of a man's body, and for those nippy nights, slip on a pull-over jacket that brings warmth with its hot design.

Visit the Kickers boutiques located at the Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Glorietta 4, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Shangri-La Plaza Manila, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Southmall and at all leading department and specialty stores nationwide.



SCANDALOUS see-through dress of 1968 (far left); 1971 version of the classic YSL smoking (left); fantasy look inspired by Leon Baskt, 1977 (right)

BETTY Catroux, St. Laurent and Loulou de la Falaise, all in YSL safari suits in 1969

Lessons from Yves Saint Laurent

(From page C1)

and soft billowy look that's again the vogue today, the new century.

Of course, so in today, too, is tuxedo dressing—deriving from Saint Laurent's "smoking" jacket of 1967, consisting of shirt, kerchief out of the breast pocket, trouser suit. For Saint Laurent used traditional men tailoring in a new way for women. Saint Laurent introduced it, Armani Hollywoodized it.

Pained life

Fashion indeed is a cycle whose continuity depends on how it can re-mesmerize each succeeding generation of women. And it is ironic that Saint Laurent is retiring today when the Saint Laurent look (or looks, for it encompasses styles through four decades) is so in.

Yet such decades of creativity were sustained by a man who has always been reclusive and insecure and has suffered bouts of drug abuse and alcoholism. As his longtime companion and the creator of the Saint Laurent business empire, **Pierre Berge**, said, which Saint Laurent himself repeated in a rare interview, Saint Laurent was "born with a nervous breakdown." The high points of his career were marked by seclusions in a hospital, and some of his greatest collections were designed on his hospital bed.

He was born in 1936 in Algeria, to wealthy French immigrants, the eldest and only boy of three children, who was doted on by his mother and aunts. His life was marked by traumas which, his biographers said, he never outgrew—the bullying in his childhood and his forced conscription in the French army in the '60s. That military stint caused his first nervous breakdown. Hardly would you know that from such pained life would come the first French fashion house to make enough fortune to make it to the stock market.

I go back now and then to "Yves Saint Laurent," the biography by **Alice Rawsthorn**, as I do to the bios of Chanel and Dior, especially when I'm forcibly bedridden by the flu and want to forget the rat race. The rat races of these charmed lives distract me from my own.

Trivia

Here are bits of information from Rawsthorn which even the non-fashionistas might find interesting:

● Saint Laurent loved to watch his mother and aunts dress for evening socials. At 4, he made his aunt change outfits five or six times before he'd allow her to step out. And his mother's love of dressing was such a great influence on him. As Rawsthorn quoted a designer: "If you look at the best works of many designers, it's always the style their mothers wore in their prime."

BIANCA and Mick Jagger marry in 1971, both in YSL

● Christian Dior, his early teacher in design, was excessively dependent on clairvoyants and tarot card readers. Dior told Saint Laurent's mother shortly before Dior died: "Yves is the one who'll succeed me."

● A literary man, Pierre Berge wanted to be a journalist. Berge loved culture and politics so that in the time of **Mitterand**, whom Berge strongly supported, Berge dragged the fashion house into the political fight when Berge sent letters to the heads of 5,000 French companies urging them to vote for Mitterand. The chair of Peugeot, the car company, retaliated by forbidding his workforce from shopping at Yves Saint Laurent.

● Fashion legend **Diana Vreeland**, then editor of Harper's Bazaar, was the one who early on hailed Saint Laurent as the couturier for the pop generation.

● Saint Laurent wouldn't go to his shows without his talismans—African worry beads and a toy Bugs Bunny.

● When Saint Laurent posed nude in the '70s, an attractive man of 35, he proved he was a rebel—and publicized his perfume about to be launched, becoming the homosexual icon of the '70s.

● His deep friendship with **Andy Warhol** saw interesting times. Rawsthorn wrote, "When Yves discovered that Warhol had accepted commissions for portraits of two rival designers, **Halston** and **Valentino**, he was so angry that he threatened to burn his own silkscreen... Unfortunately he confided his intention to a Women's Wear Daily reporter who splashed it across the magazine...."

● He was known for his outbursts. "Once Yves flung himself into such a fury that he smashed his hand against a wall and broke it."

● "Yves's personal tastes were relatively simple. He enjoyed driving himself around in his 7-year-old Volkswagen convertible, smoked Kool cigarettes, an inexpensive brand bought from street-corner kiosks, and had little interest in food. His favorite snack was a club sandwich..."

● The media and the fashion industry always lapped up news about his failing health. There was even a story that he had died. "One fashion editor turned up at the couture house and sat down in the foyer, refusing to leave until she had proof that he was alive. 'There was a real houha... Saint Laurent was there all the time. He was working away in his studio. But, of course, it would never have occurred to him to pop his head around the door so she could see him and leave... He stayed in his studio and she stayed downstairs—until Berge threw her out.'"

● Yves had always been associated with the famous actress **Catherine Deneuve**. He met her when her husband, the Vogue photographer **David Bailey**, "took her to Hotel Forain to order a dress for a reception in London at which she was to be presented to the Queen. Already a star in her early 20s, Deneuve arrived clutching a scrap of old newspaper with a photograph of a gown from the previous season's collection... Reticent with each other at first, they gradually opened up during the long round of fittings..."

Yet in an interview Deneuve admitted that, like everyone else, she didn't really know him very well. The writer wrote, "I realized how deep his isolation must be... Almost as though their friendship was something he elaborated more in his fantasies than pursued in reality."

● **Karl Lagerfeld** once said of his rival: "Look, you want his life? Of course not, eh? I mean. I hear Yves is suffering, but you cannot suffer and bring out the same collection every six months."

● However, **Christian Lacroix** once summed up the legacy of Saint Laurent: "There have been other great designers in this century, but none with the same range as Saint Laurent. Chanel, **Schiaparelli**, **Balenciaga** and Dior all did extraordinary things. But they worked within a particular style. Yves Saint Laurent is much more versatile, like a combination of all of them...."

As for us, it's nice to be living in the times of such creative men as Saint Laurent, even if we could not have afforded his creations, not even with all our earnings in our lifetime—and yet we've learned from them. For clothes are expensive, but knowledge is free, if you really seek it.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

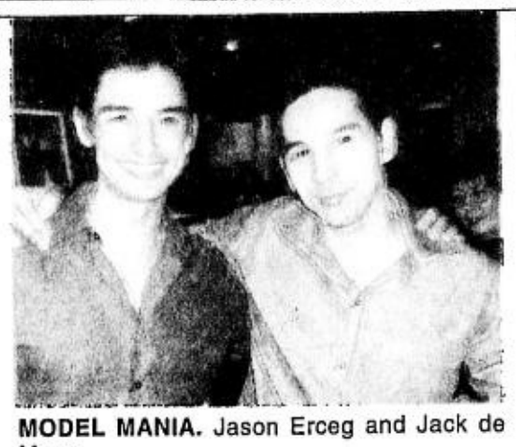
CLASSIC COLUMN. YSL was noted for perfection in couture.

YSL made news when it came to proportions.

FALL-WINTER 2001-02 version of the tuxedo suit

YSL popularized the military look.

DESIGN STARS. Joe Salazar, Chito Vijandre and Patrick Reyno



MODEL MANIA. Jason Erceg and Jack de Mesa

THE ACTOR'S ACTOR. Bart Guingona with Dodo Lim

HIGH FIDELITY. Ed Roxas and Claudia Bermudez, clad in a Joe Salazar

French-Moroccan place gives Orosa new vibrancy

Artists, socialites and their escorts, plus power players, meet and match each night at the bar and restaurant du jour

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY TIM YAP
Contributor

THE NEW queen in the Malate front is Maria Orosa with its pulsating street scene revved up by new establishments that include a café, a gay bookstore, a theme restaurant, a lesbian bar and many other exciting additions.

Most sparkling of these places is Fidel, that hot, hot French Moroccan-inspired restaurant and bar owned by *uber* stylish Malate movers Ricky Toledo, Chito Vijandre, Richard Danao and Markus Schmidt, the same people behind fab finds store Firma.

"I love it! I feel like I'm at a bar in St. Germain in Paris!" exclaimed vivacious, jetsetter Melissa Lopez while nibbling on a salad and sipping her Cosmopolitan one Saturday night. I remember stunning Claudia Bermudez as she cascaded down the chi chi stairs of the tony hangout, a vision in a Joe Salazar. "We should have more places like this, very refreshing compared to Makati!" she gushed.

Indeed, Fidel, with its classy yet cozy interiors, is perfect for a weeknight rendezvous with your significant other or weekend escape from contrived corporate communes pretending to be nightspots. With flattering lighting, both upstairs and downstairs areas are perfect lounge spots. Relax as you sip your martini and a waitress in a French maid's attire attends to you. Then, order a tongue-twisting Moroccan fare from a damask apron-clad waiter and just chill.

"We have been throwing parties at our home for the longest time, it's just a natural transition for us to open Fidel," explained Vijandre pouring me a shot of tequila. True, an invitation to Toledo and Vijandre's Bel-Air enclave means rubbing elbows with the city's artsy, chic and fun-loving set—the same people who have become habitués of Fidel.

People from the theater, fashion, art and design fields; socialites and their escorts, plus power players, meet and match each night at the bar and restaurant du jour. Fidel's opening night was a "by-invitation-only" affair, invigorating during these times when the whole world often graces openings and launchings. There was enough space to move around, cocktails were passed around oh-so-smoothly, conversations were bubbly, the crowd was beautiful and exuded joie de vivre all throughout the night.

PLAID LEATHER. Style sisters Juliet and Mimi Tan

FACE to face with Angel Aquino and Tina Pamintuan

The verve of Malate

"The martinis here are great—not too strong and not too sweet!" said my cocktail companion as she asked the waiter for her fifth glass. And the food? Let's just say that I salivate as I think of their bastilla (cinnamon-scented minced beef in filo pastry with Moroccan salad), bouillabaisse (simply, seafood soup), tangines with lamb and fish couscous, among other things. For dessert, try the "chocolate dementia," which can drive you crazy. After dinner, pamper yourself by having the Moroccan mint tea service. Sounds heavenly, right?

Recently, they added a spicy sauce that brought out the flavor of the French-Moroccan dishes even more.

Last Saturday, I spotted Tessa PV and sis Sandy Prieto-Romualdez with their husbands Dennis Valdes and Philip Romualdez, Puckett sisters Audrey Chiu and Reina Tan, Mandy Santos with hubby Duane, Councilor Kim Atienza, just to name a few. At one corner, Joe Salazar was chatting with Toledo about artistic pursuits while Vijandre started to dance to the slightly louder music. Schmidt was busy pacing up and down, entertaining the guests. He had a pasta dinner later—at 1 a.m.!

A few steps away, a famous artist was being scolded by his friend, "You are not a short-term phenomenon, and you know that!" He took a swig of his beer and absorbed his friend's caring words. Beside them was a socialite asking for the latest dish on a matinee idol and his manager. "Is it true that...?" she asked her seatmate as they discussed the latest on botox injection and cosmetic surgery.

At the bar, an interior designer had a newfound date. Outside, the meet (rather meat) market was in full swing. I decided to witness the action outside from the safe confines of Fidel's glass walls—the verve of Malate now.

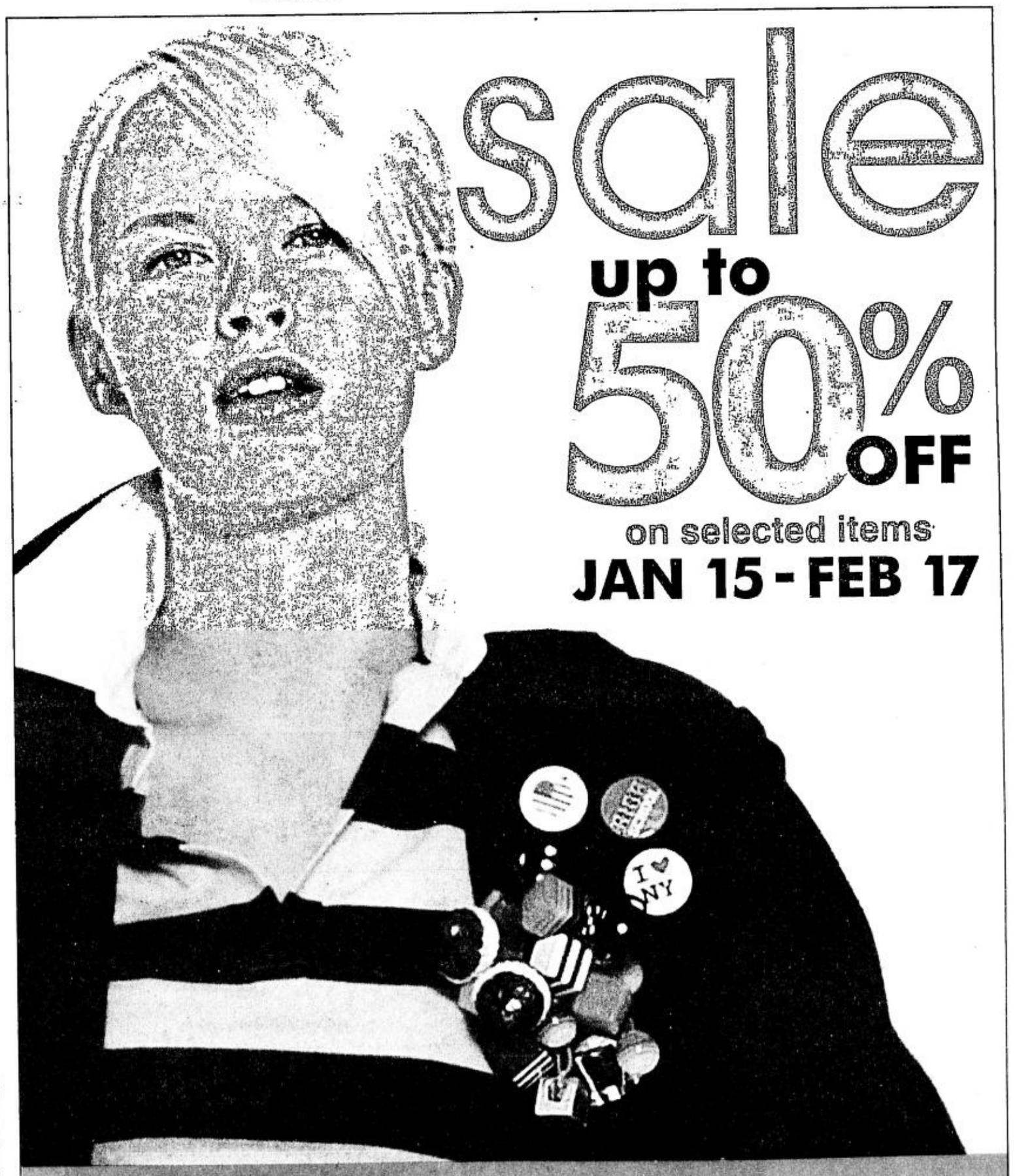
FROM FIRMA TO FIDEL. Markus Schmidt, Ricky Toledo, Chito Vijandre and Richard Danao

CORSET CRAZE. Mitzi Romillo, DJ Montano and Miguel Rosales

MOROCCAN MODE. Oskar Atendido in theme

MOD SET. Ricky Toledo and Tats Manahan in Firma ruffles

JAM Yoga Foundation's Gavin from Australia and Iñigo Elizalde



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY

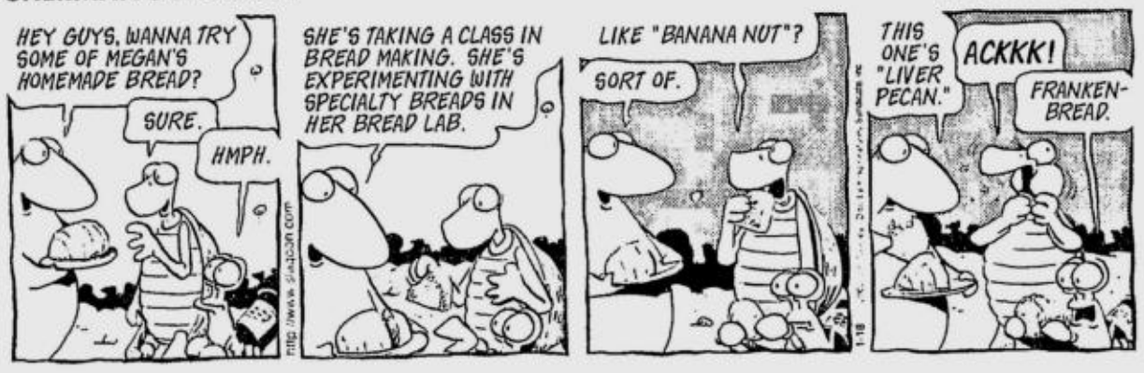
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO

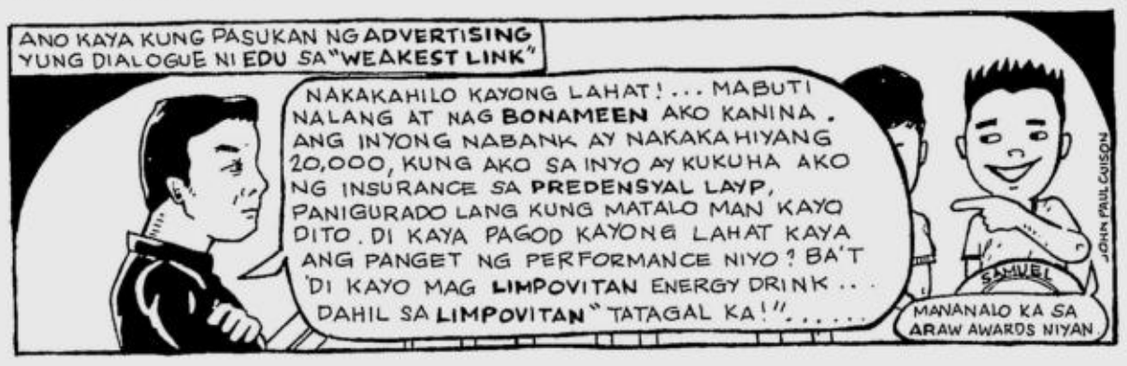
BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cary Grant, Kevin Costner, Jonathan Davis

Happy Birthday: It's time to start believing in yourself. This is a year to move yourself into a position that will make you proud of your efforts as well as of yourself. You have the goods, so stand tall and you can achieve whatever you set your mind to. Your numbers are 19, 27, 31, 33, 45, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Behind the scenes activities should be expected. Secret involvements will be tempting but must be handled with caution.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will attract companions today if you get out and interact with others who have similar beliefs. An interest in human nature will enhance your reputation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your intuition will come in handy when dealing with money matters. You can pursue real estate deals and look into other long-term investments, but don't get involved in joint ventures.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be creative and unique in all that you do today. You will be well liked by children and entertaining to most people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be tempted by risky financial schemes and gambling. Overspending on luxury items, entertainment, children or just buying things you don't really need will leave you cash poor.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will enjoy the finer things in life today. Entertainment should be scheduled and you should plan to develop one of your creative talents.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your positive progressive approach to creative ideas will result in opportunities to develop. You will attract a lot of attention, and you will tend to be where the action is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be a unique lover and a creative partner. You will use your imagination to relate to children or to entertain your friends today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will spend a great deal of the money you make on home improvements or on items for your home. You will keep family secrets, regardless of how hard it is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your attitude is changing rapidly and your plate is overloaded. Try to enlist the help of those you trust.

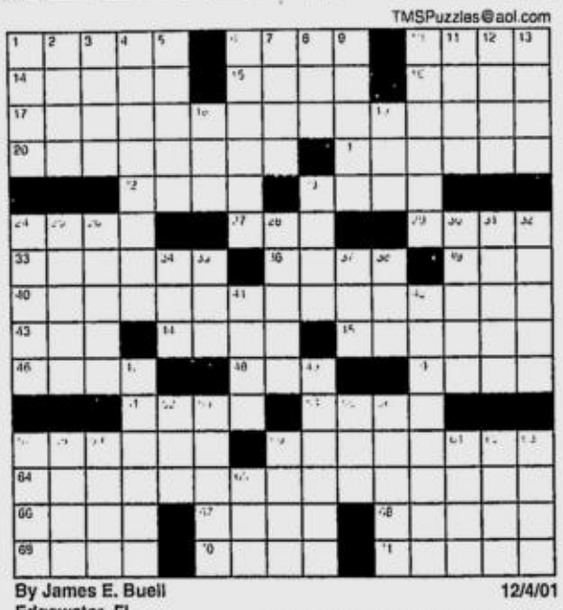
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be easy to get along with and sympathetic toward your colleagues. Your insight into future trends and creative directions will pay off.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be sensitive to the comments made by others. Don't allow your sensitivity to interfere with your work performance.

Birthday Baby: You can be impersonal but friendly when dealing with others. Your sparkling manner draws people toward you. You follow your own heart and your own rules. You dislike possessiveness and prefer to spend time with the person you find most intelligent.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 Valetta's nation
6 Breaker-breaker buddy
10 Seasoning herb
14 Of birds
15 "Damn Yankees" role
16 Ship's shell
17 Guy with many hats
20 Sought a date
21 First-aid topical
22 Middling marks
23 Brief communique
24 City on the Arno
27 Id companion
29 Appear to be
33 Desk bin
36 Pull down
39 Got a bite
40 "The Magic Flute" solo
43 OAS member
44 Tune for two
45 Wood facing
46 Morays
48 Gat
50 Woody's boy
51 Manicured grass
54 Eyeballs, in poems
57 Moe, Larry or Curly
60 Put to flight
64 Lion
66 Quechua speaker
67 Adolescent
68 Man and Capri
69 Observed
70 Word with box or bucket
71 Urgent wants

DOWN
1 Goya painting, "The Naked _"
2 Gardner and others
3 Ice-cream taste
4 Proceed with caution
5 Battery terminal
6 Contract stipulation
7 Lightning unit?
8 Building wing
9 3:1, e.g.
10 Window dressings
11 Autobahn cruiser
12 Secluded valley
13 Otherwise
18 Opponent
19 Balderdash
23 Genesis man
24 Wound the pride of
25 Currently occupied
26 Emulate Henderson or Wills
28 Affect adversely
30 Champing at the bit
31 Lucy's best friend
32 DC subway system
34 Moreover
35 Face in the mirror
37 Gun an engine
38 Compass pt.
41 Simple plant
42 Sort of
47 Catch phrase
49 Tour guide
52 Before now
53 Woven fabrics
55 British rule in the East
56 Boston player
57 Hits the slopes
58 Point of a fork
59 Before
60 Mets' milieu
61 Eye amorously
62 Left the scene
63 Actor Parker
65 Driving spot

By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

12/4/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	C	O	T	S		P	A	L	M		W	A	D	E
C	L	A	R	A		O	P	I	E		O	R	A	L
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12/4/01

Party on in black

BY CAMILLE T. CRUZ
Contributor
PHOTOS BY PATRICK UY

AS we move toward Valentine, our favorite black attire has not expired. In fact, it is becoming more and more visible even outside of the party scene. It mixes well with white.

A one-sleeved black halter dress is a clever choice. Also, a favorite sleeveless top is always safe. Try a ruffle detail along the neckline or perhaps a feathered accent will do.

Classic black pants are always key to dressing up in a not-so-formal environment. A pair of straight-legged slacks with a drawstring or rope-inspired belt is a hip replacement to a boring one-button closing pair of pants.

With slacks, a fitted top will always work well. It is simple and basic—whether you choose a tube top in black and white or a plain sleeveless top to complete an all-black ensemble. You may go colorful with your shoes, bags and jewelry to provide contrast to your get-up.

You can still do your fashion shopping. There's still a trace of the holiday spirit in black.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com

WHITE tube top with black checks, P1,350; black pants, P1,950; white gauze bag, P800

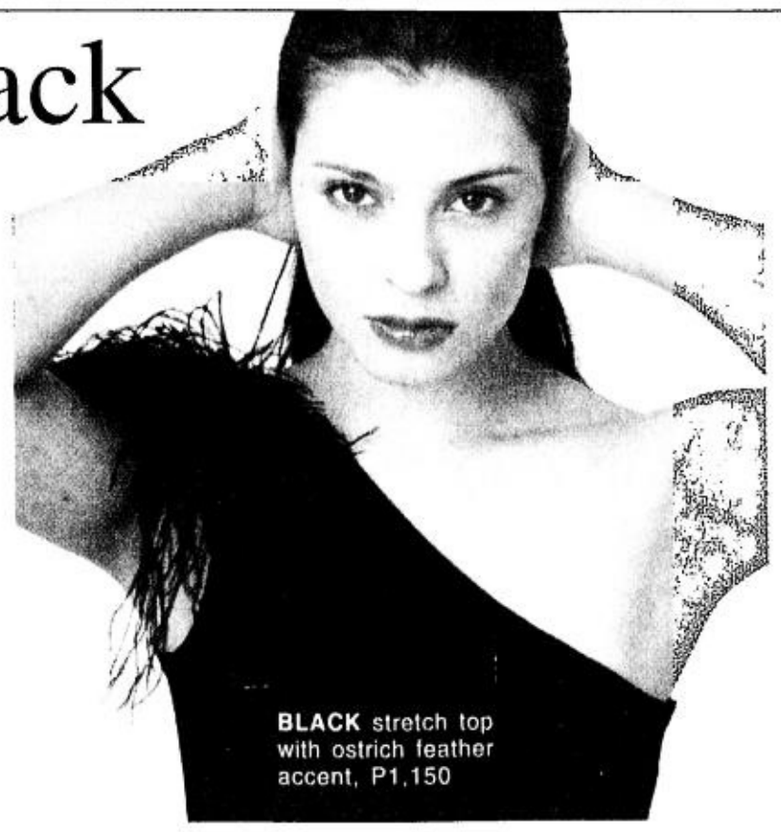
ALL ITEMS FROM M)PHOSIS, UNIT 307 3/L SHANGRI-LA PLAZA SHOPPING MALL.

MODELS: GISELLE TÖNGI AND ALICE DIXSON

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY ROCKY GIMENEZ, COCOY SALON, GREENHILLS

SHOES: ANNE KLEIN AND JILL STUART, MIX AT GREENBELT MALL

BLACK sleeveless top with satin pleats on armholes, P800; red satin skirt, P1,350.



BLACK stretch top with ostrich feather accent, P1,150

You can extend the holidays by wearing reliable black with some variations

Bright young things in Tatler

THE PHILIPPINE Tatler, the society and lifestyle magazine, features Manila's new establishment—Bea Valdes, Ayen Santos, Derek Ramsay and Gabbie de la Rama. They flaunt avant-garde fashion by designer Rajo Laurel and special fabrics from lifestyle store Artemis. The fashion spreads feature provocative apparel inspired by the unprecedented award-winning film, "Moulin Rouge."

See if your stars match those of the real stars and other worldly celebrities in an interesting social horoscope. Also, get to know more about Asia's top billionaires, their often humble beginnings and their astounding dollar net worth.

The Philippine Tatler likewise gains exclusive interviews with business leader Washington SyCip and Manila's Ms Manners, Conchitina Sevilla-Bernardo. Also, the home section features a place designed by architect Jorge Yulo.

"You can lose weight the risky way or the healthy way. As a doctor, I recommend the safe and natural way: EXOFAT® Forte...

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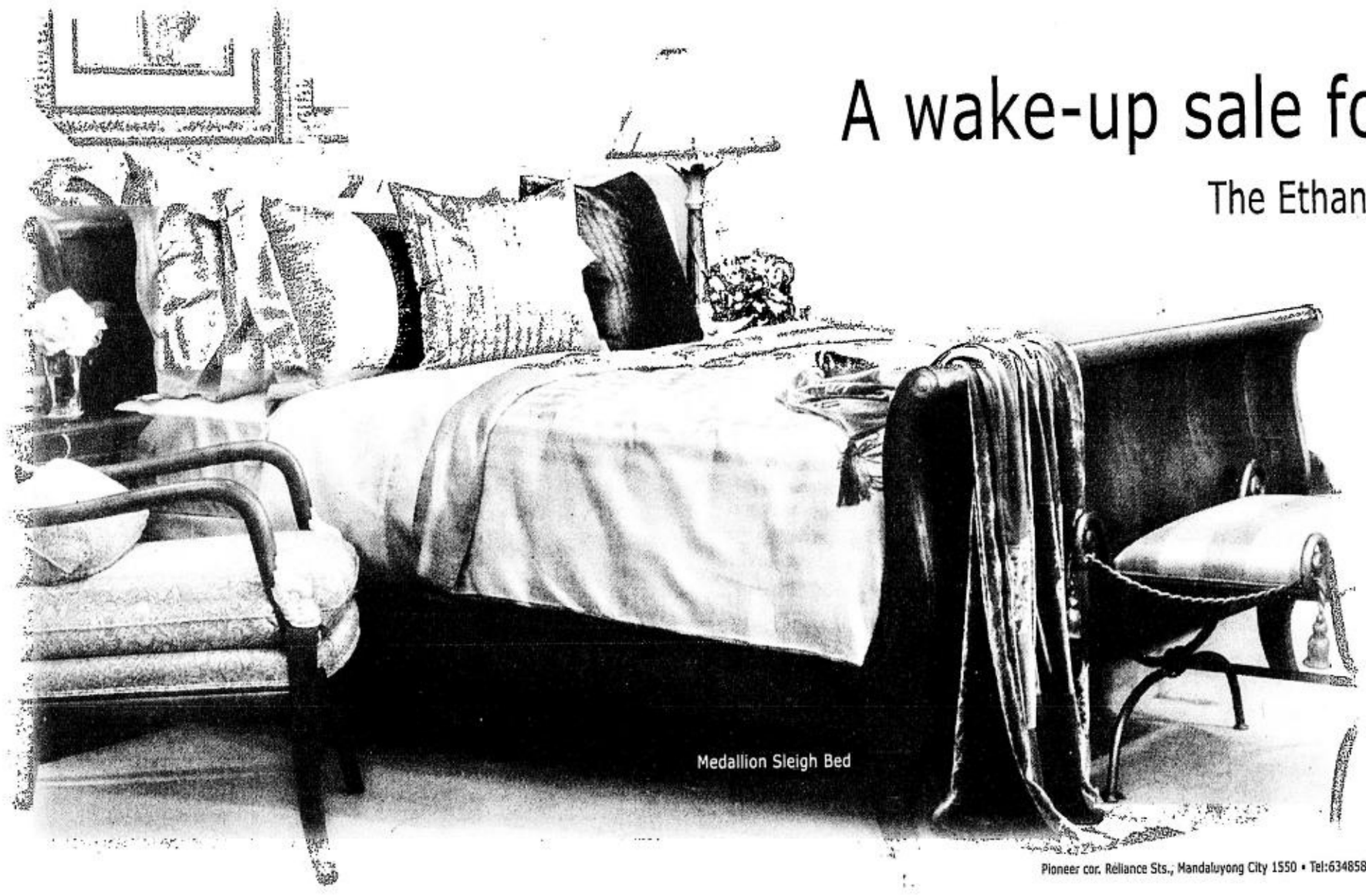

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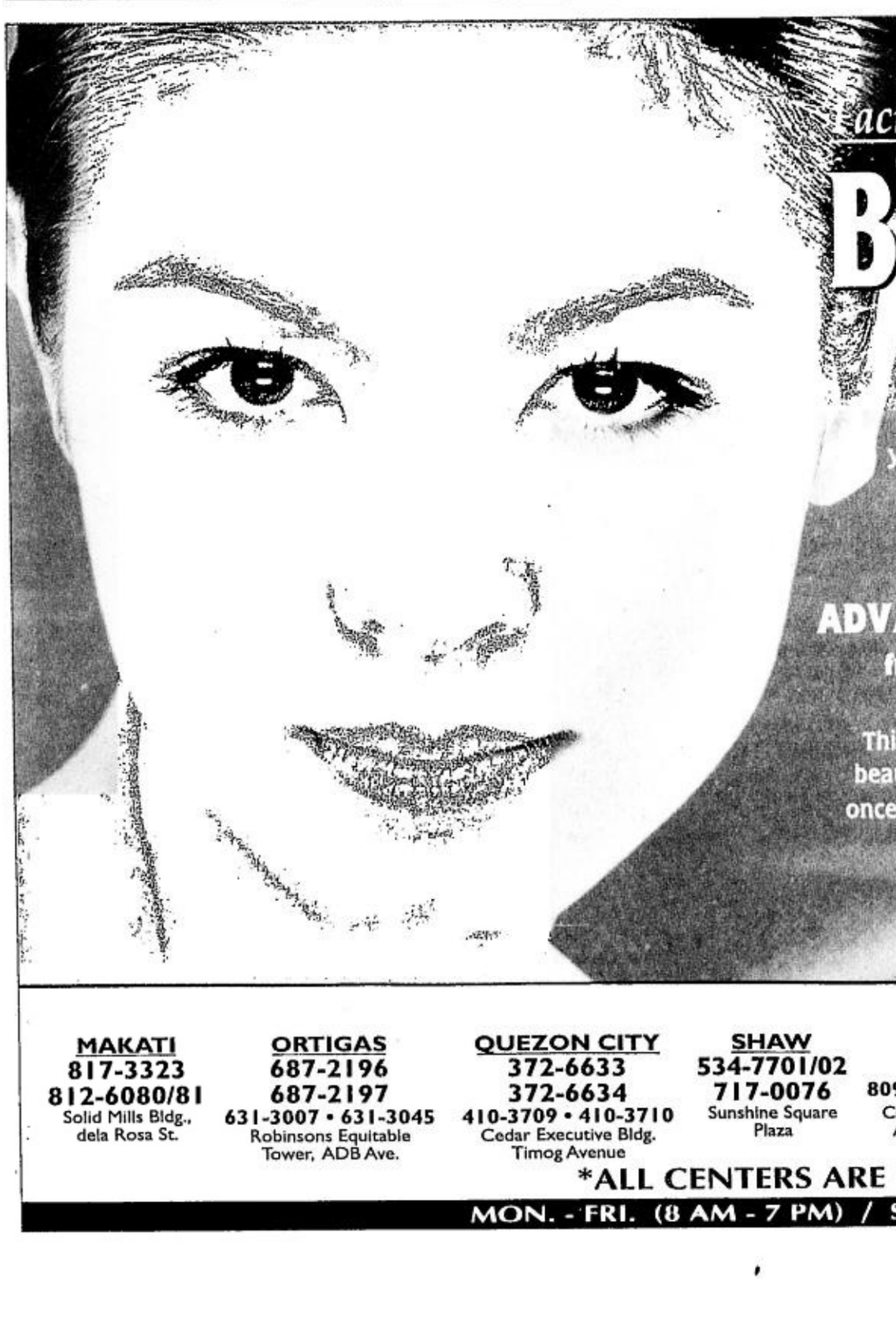

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Per DTI NCR Permit #4400 Series of 2001

Meet the new year with a mini waterfall garden

BY TITA V. GIRON
Contributor
PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

PLANT arts expert Serapion Metilla has added something new to the current craze in water gardening. Instead of the usual mini waterfalls with imitation rocks and artificial plants, he has come up with landscaped waterfalls using natural materials.

Several artificial mini waterfalls and small table fountains have been showing up in the market because of the positive influence they're supposed to bring, as popularized by feng shui and Zen advocates.

Unlike the usual mini waterfalls with imitation rocks, stones and artificial plants, Metilla's works are made of volcanic rocks, cinders and clay. He uses live plants and miniature trees, the secret elements that give his waterfall gardens a distinct touch of nature.

Of course, Metilla's know-how in bonsai culture and plant arts makes the difference. We can tell. Over the last 30 years or so, we've listened to his countless lectures, followed his gardening columns and saw his different plant art works.

His recent lecture-demonstration on waterfall gardens has no doubt drawn a lot of interest. One prominent lady, for instance, was said to have been so impressed that she ordered several pieces to give friends last Christmas.

And listen to this. A jet engine instructor from the US happened to watch him demonstrate the making of waterfall gardens during the recent Ikebana International exhibit at Inter-Con Hotel. Weeks later, Metilla received a letter from the jet engineer who enclosed a photo of the waterfall he made at home in the US with his son, based on Metilla's instructions.

The engineer thanked Metilla. It was fun making the waterfall, he wrote. He added that it saved him a lot of money because table waterfalls being sold at US shops now cost $175 and up. According to the jet engineer, he only spent $8 for lava rocks and $15 for the submersible water pump. The rest of the materials were either free or inexpensive, including the water catchment pond that he improvised with a birdbath.

Waterfall soothes the spirit

"There is nothing like the sound of waterfall to soothe a tired body," Metilla said. He added that moving water improves air quality in the environment and helps reduce pollution produced by car emissions, smoke and other pollutants.

"The sight and sound of a gentle waterfall is conducive to meditation. It is a perfect focal point for contemplation," he added.

It is also believed to attract luck, which is why mini waterfalls and ponds are usually located near the entrance of buildings. In feng shui, water is one of the most valuable component of a meditation garden, whether it is a fountain, a pond, or a gentle waterfall. "The water movement is important and should not make a loud gushing or torrential sound to distract one's contemplation," he pointed out.

Metilla also said that besides the possible luck it brings, the waterfall is a welcome sight for the tired mind and body.

Materials needed

- Volcanic rock, preferably irregular in form, is the choice of

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Zeolite for the environment and agriculture

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

WE first heard of zeolite technology from Ignacio Sam, president and general manager of Chester Industries Inc. Sam followed up his phone call with a letter informing us of the benefits to be derived from zeolite. From his explanation, it became apparent that this mineral could accomplish two things at the same time.

Zeolite, he says, is a non-metallic mineral that absorbs odor and is a source of micronutrients, which are needed by microorganisms in the soil. When these nutrients are mixed with composting organic material, they enhance the quality of organic waste and once in the form of fertilizer, provide a higher impact on agricultural products and a greater crop yield, like sugar, corn, rice and organic vegetables.

Conversely, Sam continues, if you apply fertilizer, especially that composed of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium (or NPK) without zeolite, 50 percent of those nutrients will evaporate. This means that if you use 10 bags of zeolite-less fertilizer, you will get the efficacy of only five bags. He cautions, however, that not all zeolite are advantageous to man: The crystalline kind, he says, can actually cause diseases.

It is quite different with organic zeolite, which allows a slow release of nitrogen, potassium and water, thus preventing nitrate pollution and global warming.

Zeolite technology

Zeolite technology involves a composting process incorporating biodegradable waste such as agricultural waste, animal manure, municipal wet garbage and sludge. It's a two-in-one technology in that as it cleans up the environment, the Pasig River for instance, all the solid waste and sludge dredged from it are turned into fertilizer which, in turn, is used as fertilizer for agricultural purposes. If all the cities and municipalities in the country collect their garbage and process it in this way, says Sam, we will have achieved zero waste, a healthful, clean environment and rich agricultural land with high crop yield as well.

Zeolite, moreover, has other uses. It can be a pesticide, harmless to man. If your dog has fleas and ticks, just dust some zeolite powder where he sleeps or sprinkle it on his fur, and those pests will disappear. Sam speaks of its medicinal uses, too, but here a formal recommendation is needed.

The type of zeolite that Chester Industries deals with is the organic (natural) kind recommended for environmental and agricultural uses. In appearance, it is chalky white and porous, easy to scrape into powder form. The company quarries it in five areas in the Philippines including Bukidnon and Lanao del Norte.

Quarrying it, Sam adds, does not violate environmental laws, first because his company's operations are controlled. Also, as the mineral is soft, it does not need explosives or blastings, leaving the terrain intact. Dust is produced during the mining process, but even this is collected and used.

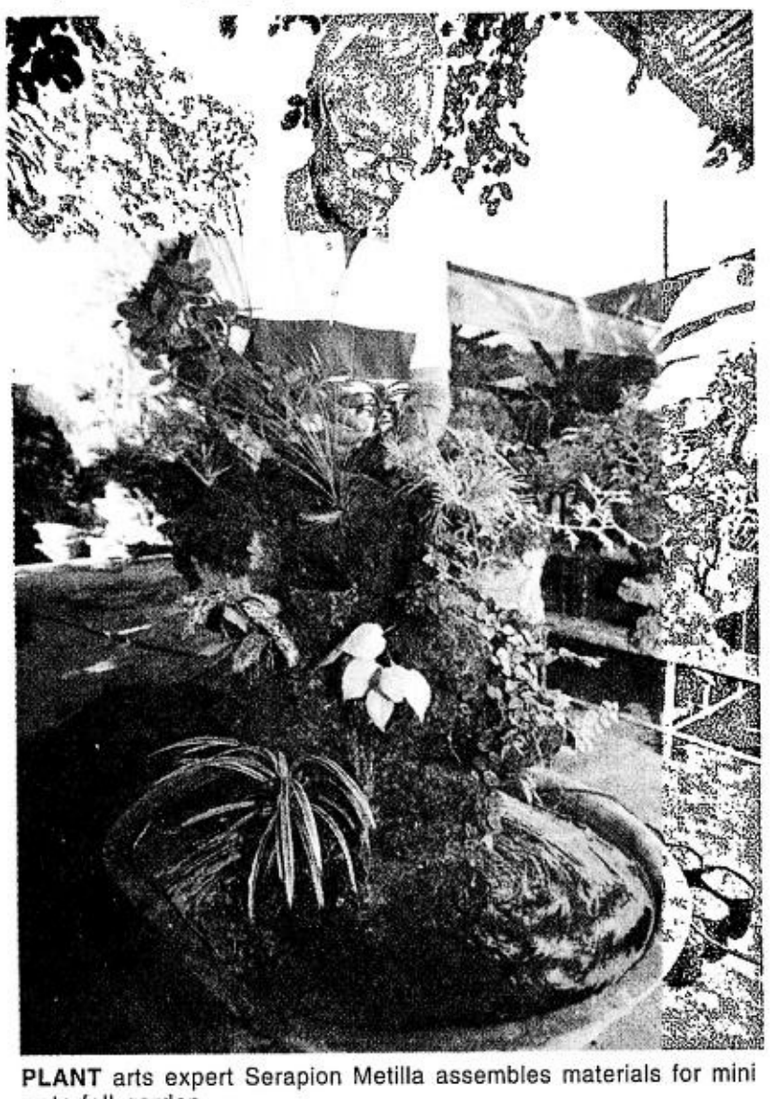
His company is the pioneer in the Philippines in the development of KRS-trace mineral fertilizer from siliceous zeolite, an indigenous mineral clay composed of mineral elements and fossilized diatoms such as seaweed, shrimps and algae (KRS stands for his daughter's initials). Siliceous zeolite has the capacity to free soluble nutrients already in the soil for absorption by plants, in this way improving soil fertility.

Sam enthusiastically endorses the technology not just because it's his business but also because it provides a doable solution to our agricultural, environmental and, consequently, economic problems. And there are many farmers all over the country who can attest to the efficiency of zeolite. They have only to show larger vegetables and fruits that now grow in their farms as a first sign that the mineral works.

There is much more to zeolite than can be explained here. The word "zeolite" itself is synonymous to "diatomaceous earth" which is the subject of study of the world's scientists who are members of the International Committee on Natural Zeolites based in New York. Sam is a member of the ICNZ.

With farmers enjoying better crops and better harvests, there is bound to be financial and economic rewards for them and all those down the line. Sam's programs are thorough and include ways to maximize productivity.

He is ready to explain zeolites to anyone who cares to understand it. Most of all, he hopes, that with the new year, our government officials will be more willing to listen to Filipinos offering helpful technologies for use in their own country, than just to multinationals. Sam's contact number in Manila: 711-4011 to 12; in Bacolod: 29-777.



PLANT arts expert Serapion Metilla assembles materials for mini waterfall garden.

WATERFALL garden nursery is where new plants and trees get used to their new habitat.

Meet the new year with a mini waterfall garden

(From page D1)

Metilla. Customers have a choice from heights ranging 2 ft to 6 ft.

- Clay may be store-bought or dug from the garden. This is needed to cover roots of plants and to hold them secure on the rock until the roots are able to establish plants.
- Submersible pump, also called circulating motor. They vary according to power required by the size of the rock and the waterfall.
- Concrete basin or water catchment which may be rectangular, round, oval, or irregular. It should be deep enough to contain rock and water. Metilla chooses containers with irregular shape to complement the natural contour of the volcanic rock.
- Clay, compost, cement, sand, hose and wire.
- Planting materials should be small, of varying height and are tolerant of humid and shade area. For rock cover and niche fillers, he plants small ferns, ivy, mondo grass, lichens and mosses. To create height perspective, he opts for bonsai trees, miniature ti plants, syngonium, philodendron and other plants that tolerate shady and humid locations.
- Length and size of hose will depend on the size and power of submersible pump, also the height of rock. Ideally, Metilla uses ½-inch diameter hose.
- For his tools, Metilla uses electric drill, hammer, chisel or any hard object that can be used to carve the rock.

Procedure

After cleaning the volcanic rock and chiseling the rough edges, Metilla uses the electric drill to make holes from the rock's back to the top where the waterfall is supposed to start. He inserts the water hose originating from the pump through the hole and holds it in place with cement.

"For a natural look, use either black or red cement that blends with the color of the volcanic rock," Metilla advised.

Water pressure is important to control the flow of water and to contain it within the catch basin. The ideal container for a 2.5 ft rock is 4 inches deep, 2.5 ft long and can contain 6 gallons of water. "It is also very important to keep the pump underwater so it does not overheat," Metilla cautioned.

> It soothes and relaxes the mind and body. It is also easy, cheap and gratifying to make

Having positioned the rock on top of the container, Metilla landscapes the rock. The roots of ficus or *balete* are inserted into deep crevices filled with compost and covered with live moss. "Ficus trees have deep penetrating roots that anchor them to rocks," he explained. His other choices are mini melendres, bougainvillea and powder puff trees.

After planting the bigger materials, he covers the rock surface with carpet moss, lichens and ferns. The bases are held in place by clay.

Newly landscaped waterfall gardens are sheltered for the first few days in a shady but well-lighted place. Keep it well-watered until the plants are established.

"Be guided by the photo of a waterfall garden if you have no idea how it looks like," Metilla tells beginners.

Maintenance

"Place your waterfall garden in a location with bright light, but not under direct sunlight. You can bring them indoors in a well-lighted area for five days, maximum. See that the container is filled with water and the pump is well submerged."

For folks who want to keep the waterfall garden indoors, here is Metilla's suggestion: "Provide the plants with ultraviolet lights, the same lights used for aquariums. Place bulbs overhead, about 1 ft away from plants. In the evening before you retire to bed, it is advisable to unplug the pump's motor."

His parting shot, "Keep the waterfall out of the children's reach. And, don't forget that the motor is submerged under water. Be sure the plug does not get wet, or it could cause electrocution."

Metilla will demonstrate his waterfall garden during the Philippine Horticulture Society anniversary garden show at Manila Seedling Bank starting Jan. 25.

Call the veteran plant arts expert at 939-4593.

E-mail the author at mariettagiron@hotmail.com

WATER movement cools the air and cleans pollution inside the house. Ferns, moss, and bonsai trees grow on volcanic rock.

Bright ideas

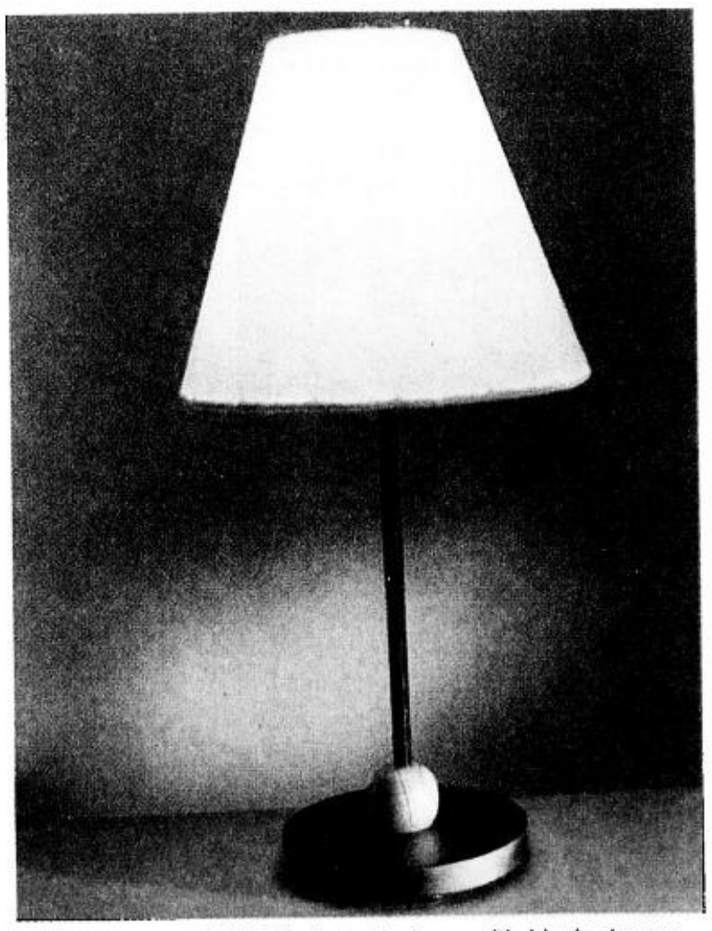
APART from lighting up spaces and setting the mood, lamps have evolved into decorative accessories, and in some cases may even be thought of as sculpture.

The new lamp collection from Our Home, the lifestyle store where one can get great designs at great prices, light up rooms with uniquely shaped wooden and chrome bases topped with off-white fabric shades.

The key to lighting in homes is that you can make this work for you. Here are some enlightening ideas from Our Home:

- Lamps should never be thought of as replacements for natural sunlight. Your daytime lighting should always come from the outside.
- In the evening, it is better to have many different sources of illumination in the room instead of just a few lights of high wattage. There is nothing romantic about ceiling lighting in a living room.
- Use a variety of light arrangements so that the mood of the room can change continually. Table lamps with three-way bulbs, dimmers; standing lamps with glass, brass, or chrome shades; and sconces all provide efficient and aesthetically pleasing ways to light a room.
- Do not overscale lamps. A 15-inch high lamp base requires only an 11-inch lampshade.
- An excellent source of lighting is a standing halogen lamp that often comes with a dimmer switch. The light is reflected off the ceiling.

The lamp collection is available at Our Home at the LG/L of the SM Megamall A.



IN THE LIMELIGHT. Othello table lamp with black chrome base and *catcha* shade

METROBANK FOUNDATION DONATES TO LINGKOD ER

Lingkod E.R. Foundation, Inc., a volunteer organization with over 3,000 college, dental and medical student volunteer-members nationwide, recently received a donation from the Metrobank Foundation, Inc. (MBFI), the philanthropic arm of Metrobank on its 39th anniversary. From left, Cecille Ferrer, director- Lingkod E.R., Mary Vy Ty, Maria Luisa R. Ticzon, founder and director of Lingkod E.R. and Metrobank Foundation, Inc. chair George S. K. Ty at the turnover ceremony.

Price war at Italian shop rages on

THE LINEA Italia Group's (LIG) "Price War" continues to rage on this month with even better deals for all fashion lovers.

All Italian merchandise (including previously discounted items)—from clothes and shoes to bags and accessories for both men and women—continue to be available at half their prices.

As an added treat, all cash and LIG gift certificate purchases will be given an additional 20 percent discount.

Participating brands in the ongoing "Price War" include Versace, Dolce & Gabbana, Philosophy di Alberta Ferretti, Trussardi, Gianfranco Ferre, Stefanel, Gai Mattiolo, Mariella Burani, Max Mara, Sportmax, Marco Pietrogrande, Henry Cottons, Pal Zileri, Roberto Guiducci, Navajos and Marco Gabbriellini.

The "Price War" is on at Linea Italia 6750, Versace Jeans Couture (Greenbelt), Prima Linea (Greenbelt, SM Megamall, Ayala Center Cebu), Linea Italia (SM Megamall, Ayala Center Cebu), Linea Uomo (SM Megamall, SM Cebu and Park Square I), Uomo Tu (Greenbelt, Ayala Center Cebu), Viva (SM Megamall, SM Cebu), Capolinea (Greenbelt, SM Cebu) and Corso Marconi on Marconi corner Morse Streets, Makati City (main branch), Festival Supermall Alabang, Robinsons Galleria, SM Manila, Cebu and the new Corso Marconi Bacolod.

GOINGS-ON

FAIR. The High School Student Council of Miriam College holds its annual fair dubbed "S (Share, Serve, Shine)," at the Miriam High School SMJ Field until tomorrow. Proceeds will go to the Miriam College Endowment Fund for scholarships and faculty development. Call 927-2421, local 244.

SEARCH. The MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council search is ongoing. Send your contest application forms or fully accomplished biodata through application boxes set up in selected schools in Metro Manila like Ateneo, La Salle, UST and UP. You may also drop them at your favorite Penshoppe outlets.

Interested parties may also submit their entries to MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council search, P.O. Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, 1256 Makati City. Or at the registration party of the MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council at Glorietta Activity Center on Jan. 26. Applications will be accepted until Feb. 8. Twenty finalists will be chosen on Feb. 15. The search will culminate with the announcement of winners on Feb. 28. Call 848-1321.

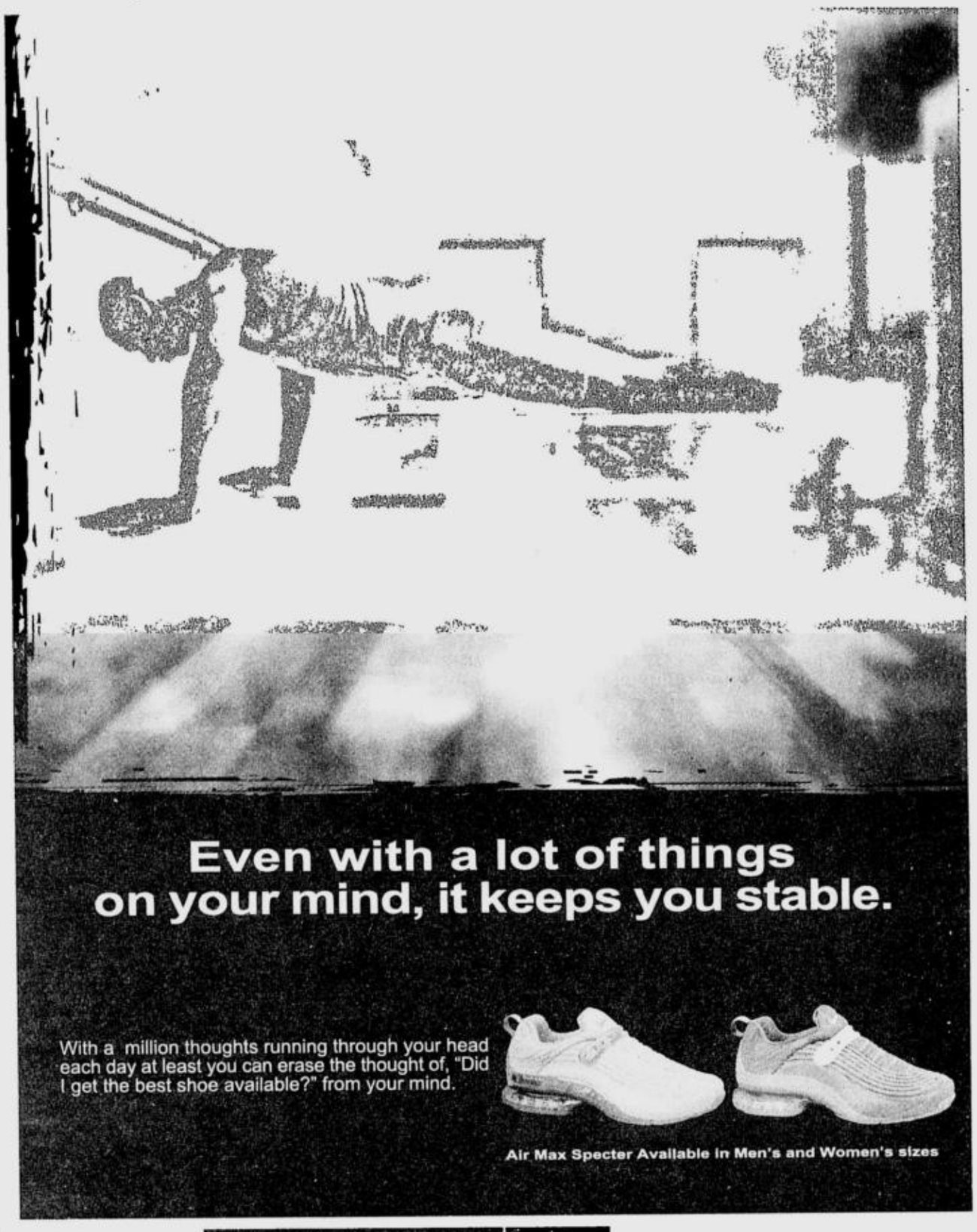
REUNION. The popular singing group during the 70's, Sons & Daughters, will hold a grand reunion on Jan. 26, at the residence of one of its members, Liza Mantaring. Call 726-0261 or 0916-4700986. Members can also call Sony Mangundayco at 893-1309.

GRAND SALE. Oceanic 1911, a jewelry and gifts store chain, joined over a hundred leading commercial establishments and malls in this year's WowPhilippines Grand Fiesta Sale which will run until Jan. 31.

Oceanic 1911 stores nationwide will offer loyal and new customers with discounts of up to 50-percent on selected items. Oceanic 1911 has branches at Glorietta I, Ayala Center-Makati, Festival Mall Alabang, SM Southmall-Las Piñas, Robinsons Place-Bacolod and Ayala Center-Cebu City.

BAZAAR. The holidays may be over but the fun bargains continue at Shop@theFort, the monthly shopping extravaganza at the NBC Tent. This year's Shop@theFort opens tomorrow with an exciting shopping bazaar that features a variety of high quality but reasonably priced items like home decor, export over runs, children's books, toys and many more.

Shop@theFort will be coming up with different themes for their monthly bazaars. The bazaar is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday. Shop@theFort is held on the second weekend of every month. Free parking to all shoppers. Shop@theFort also accepts local and imported credit cards.



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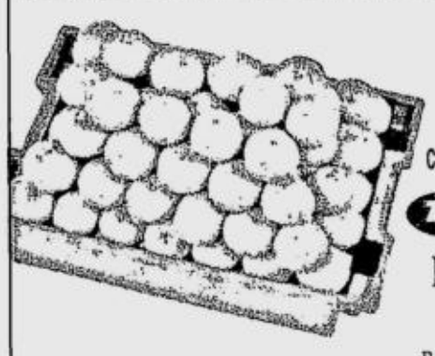

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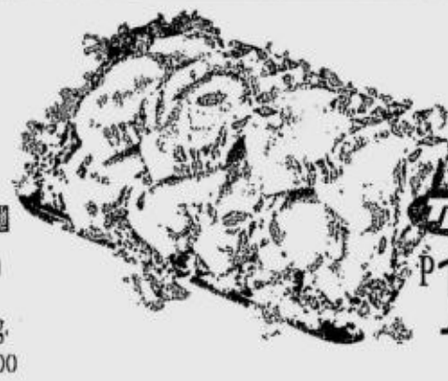

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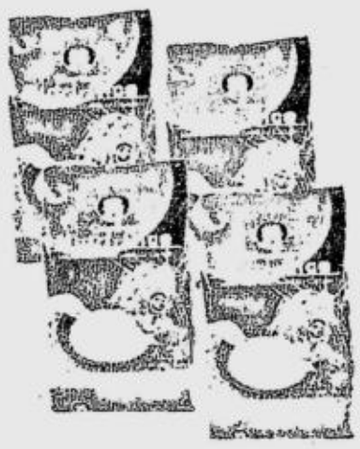

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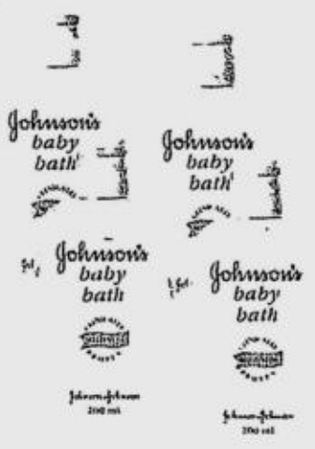

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RACHEL Alejandro hams it up as Fran.

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BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

TODAY'S fashion-ruffled shorts, romantic tops, folkloric clothes, pale lips and fake lashes are reverting to the '60s—1968 to be exact. Actor's Actors Inc. is jumping on the nostalgia bandwagon with the period musical comedy "Promises, Promises." The main attraction isn't the script by Neil Simon, but the suave music of Burt Bacharach and lyricist Hal David whose tunes dominated the airwaves for two decades.

Bacharach was a pianist in jazz bands and an arranger for jazz bands. In 1957, he teamed up with David to create such hits as "What the World Needs Now" and "Walk on By." He won two Oscars for scoring "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and composing its theme song "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head," in 1969. He won a third Oscar for writing "Best That You Can Do," the theme song of the comedy "Arthur," in 1981. In 1973 Bacharach worked with Carol Bayer Sager and wrote "That's What Friends are For"; in the mid-1980s when it was revived by Dionne Warwick and "friends" (that's Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight and Elton John) as a benefit record for victims of AIDS, it became a big hit. In 1997, Bacharach teamed up with rocker Elvis Costello. He also wrote the music for "Austin Powers" and "The Spy Who Shagged Me.'

"Promises, Promises" is about an accountant, Chuck Baxter (Michael Williams), who works in an insurance firm. When his boss Jeff Sheldrake (Lee Robin Salazar) learns that he has an apartment in Manhattan, he is offered a promotion. Apparently the boss wants to use the place for his illicit liaisons. But Chuck is in love with Fran (Rachel Alejandro), the waitress in the employees' cafeteria who is having an affair with his boss.

FALL/ p.E2

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Catch romantic pneumonia when Actor's Actors brings to the stage the Simon-Bacharach-David musical-comedy from the more innocent 1960s

BLAST FROM THE PAST. Michael Williams and Alejandro do the shing-a-ling.

(From page E1)

'Promises, Promises'

FALL/ p.E4

BITTEN BY THE LOVE BUG. Michael and Rachel in vintage office clothes

VERY '60S. Boxy fake fur jacket and double knit shirt and pants

THE MINI shirt dress and the pencil pants

Yesterday once more

BY JOSE JAVIER REYES
Contributor

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

I RECEIVED an e-mail that triggered a blast from the past. The sender was a high school-to-college classmate now working for the alumni association of my dear old Alma Mater.

After a certain age, I stopped counting birthdays. Maybe it was because the increasing number of candles on my birthday cake every year only reminded me of my mortality. Once upon a time, too long ago, my best friend and I wailed, "Oh, my God, we have been around for a quarter of a century!" So the prospect of reaching the golden mark could be quite traumatic unless handled properly. .

Good old days

So there I was reading the electronic reminder that I graduated from high school 30 years ago and my college graduating class was celebrating its silver anniversary. The reunion program sounded like a lot of fun: an overnight retreat, basketball games, drinking sessions. There was also a request to bring CDs of music from the '70s to "bring back the good old days."

This last item made me laugh. I realized that in my collection of music CDs, the anthologies of '70s music certainly outnumbered pieces selected to pretend to some degree of culture and sophistication. Yes, I have more Bacharach than Bach and I still get teary-eyed when I listen to Carole King sing any of her hits from the "Tapestry" album.

The class reunion invitation also sent memories running on fast forward in my head. The images resembled the undercranked visions in Madonna's "Ray of Light" MTV. Everything was moving far too fast although with distinct and definite features, but without the heart-pounding, breast-shattering techno music. Instead, I was hearing refrains from songs of Chicago; Iron Butterly; Earth, Wind & Fire; Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young; and even... uh, Dionne Warwick. Those were my good old days.

Remembering

Music is like perfume. A whiff brings back an entire stock of memories—of specific moments in a person's time line. I feel that way each time I hear an old and familiar strain. Of course, it does not help that the music of one's age is now in the category of "Oldies but Goodies," and that kids respond with a blank stare when you start talking about the poetry of Joni Mitchell's lyrics or discussing the significance of the Beatles' last album. It is frustrating that anyone below the age of 30 has never heard of Gordon Lightfoot and thinks that "If You Could Read My Mind" is from a movie soundtrack and original done by a quartet that includes Jocelyn Enriquez.

But I imagine kids also feel the same way when people my age fail to appreciate the music of Destiny's Child, Eminem or—God forbid!—Britney Spears. They must think we are caught in a time-warp for failing to distinguish N'Sync from Westlife or the five million other boy bands that all sound like they are singing one universal medley.

To have one's pop consciousness relegated to retro can be quite discombobulating, especially if one still feels he has the stamina to last the night at Eastwood City or a compulsion to attend a rave party.

> Maybe it was just that at that age you couldn't help but be simpler

Nostalgic and amused

Although it makes me very nostalgic, I also find myself quite amused by the return of the '70s, resurrected by the gurus and icons of fashion and pop. Scavenging through boxes of old photographs, I came across yellowing pictures of me in the '70s—with more hair and less waistline. I cringed and emitted a painful sound as I stared at myself with shoulder length (even wavy) hair. I had a long-sleeved tangerine shirt and studded belt wrapped around my then 32" waistline. They were matched by flared pants that must have swept the corridors of La Salle Greenhills each time I sashayed to class. Aaaaaaaaargh!

In another picture, taken so much later but still in the '70s, I was wearing a *katsa* shirt with red gingham accents on the collar, *katsa* double-pleated straight-cut pants and a pair of shoes that must have been purchased from rejects of the set of "Young Frankenstein." Another aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaargh! It was not the ugliness of the clothes that hit me, but rather the confidence on my face, as immortalized by the photographs. I actually thought I looked so great in those hideous outfits. Hideous now... so chic and *au courant* then. Siiiiiiigh.

More market value

I can always make the excuse that I was so much younger then and definitely had more market value in the relationship market.

Why are they bringing back that sort of pop aesthetics today? There is no way for me to ask Tom Ford or Donatella Versace or Miuccia Prada why they are dressing up men and women to look like people in my 1972 high school yearbook. This whole neo-hippie sort of thing, bringing back the Giorgio d'Sant Angelo style, seems to want to turn everyone into clones of Ali MacGraw before she succumbed to Yoga. The '70s were the time of free love and protest against everything viewed as establishment, including the parents. It was the time before AIDS, when the legendary First Quarter Storm that changed the shape of Philippine politics.

Sure, it amazes and amuses me—the pre-disco look with kids wearing balloon pants, haltered shirts and floral prints. Puka shells are back, entwined around necks, wrists and ankles. But the whole neo-hippie culture is merely mimed and perpetuated by glossies and music videos. It lacks the brand of thinking that went with the look when we were kids. I so vividly remember my mother warning me, "*Huwag kang iinom ng* marijuana!"

Love generation

We also sported love beads then and wore Nehru and Mao coats with pendants as big as *dimsum platitos* hanging from chains that could have been swiped from a kennel. We were into wet look and snakeskin and popcorn shirts and we tried so hard to emphasize that our generation made love, not war. And, yes, a few of us read Carlos Castaneda and Herman Hesse, had philosophical discussions with teachers and elders, and insisted that *cannabis* was a product of nature and, therefore, a gift from God.

Despite the political turbulence, life was still relatively much simpler then. Or maybe it was just that at that age you couldn't help but be simpler. There was great idealism, a compulsion to change things while enjoying the security of weekly allowances from our parents. Somewhere along the way, as fashion and music changed and we chose the road to take, we learned the art of compromise.

And now look at us. I dread going to the class reunion because I will be seeing guys I have not seen for 30 years. I am not merely referring to receding hairlines, potbellies and possible brain damage resulting from overindulgence in drugs when younger. It would be interesting to see how age has mellowed the firebrands, tamed the rubble rousers or even muted the romantics.

We have become the parents we once protested against and have inherited all their worries. And we end up wanting to hear our music again if only to remind us of a time when we were eager innocents.

Single woman wants to adopt child

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I am 42 years old, single, with a regular job. I have asked the DSWD on the possibility of a single person adopting a child. You see, I really want to have a family, but if I am destined to remain single, I pray that I will just be given a child to be my inspiration so I can have someone to share my life with. Unfortunately, DSWD says it cannot be done (a single person adopting a child). I hope you can enlighten me on this matter.

LONELY GIRL

Yes, you can adopt. Probably, the one who answered you at the DSWD was just a clerk who did not know the rules of law.

You see, to adopt legally, you have to get the services of a lawyer who will be the one to get in touch with DSWD. You have to prove that you have the wherewithal, the ability to raise a child. This means you have to present documents of properties owned, enough savings, a statement from your office's personnel officer that you have a permanent job, or proof of your practice of your profession.

The adoption petition will be brought to court and will have to be published in a newspaper to be chosen by the Regional Trial Court. You did not include your address in your letter, but if you live in Cotabato, for example, you will be asked to have your petition published by a newspaper there, like the Mindanao Cross.

Good luck. I'm sure it will be easier to find a child for adoption than to look for a man who will want to marry you. Now, don't be disheartened by that statement. I could be wrong. But if I am right, just remember to offer each day to the Lord. Other blessings can come into your life. As you know, God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform.

Wanting to meet friends

DO you know of a club or organization I can join to meet new friends and acquaintances? I am 37 years old, a public school teacher, single, with no siblings. I don't intend to find a sweetheart or fall in love, but my weekends are very boring. Maybe joining a club can give me something interesting to do. My parents live in another province with their relatives. I am lucky to find a teaching job, which allows me to send my parents money every now and then. Thank you and God bless.

A BORED TEACHER

The address of your letter shows you are only two hours away from Metro Manila, but if you join a club here, it will mean hours on the road, and other expenses. Why not focus on your students? Assign them to some activity on Saturdays which you can oversee, something they will enjoy, like planting cactus or cross-stitching for the girls, and other projects the boys will be interested in.

On Sundays, after attending church, your parish priest or pastor might have some projects for his parishioners. As a teacher, you should be familiar with this tenet: the dearest things in life are right outside your door, why keep reaching for the moon?

Address of Garter Boy

TO THOSE who have asked for his address: He is Romel G. Somo, Almarai Co. Lts., Al Rahiah Dairy Farm, P.O. Box 8524, Riyadh 11492, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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Fall in love with 'Promises, Promises'

(From page E2)

Working with boyfriend

Rachel came to our location shooting, made up for the part, replete with teased hair and flip and wing-tip eye liner, looking like a star from the defunct Sampaguita Pictures. The shoot was set in the residence of Charlie and Tess Alvarez who provide movie props and vintage cars for period productions and sell memorabilia.

Rachel likens her role to Drew Barrymore's character in "The Wedding Singer." Fran is perky and sweet, but she is having an affair with the married Jeff, played by her real-life significant other, Robin. "Chuck tries to ask me out but I'm into this affair. Later she finds out that Jeff is a jerk. She ends up with a nicer guy," said Rachel.

Although she was born in 1974, much later than the musical, she can relate to Bacharach's songs. Her favorite song from the musical is "Whoever You Are, I Love You."

"It's a stirring ballad. The sentiments in the song were the thoughts I had at some point. When you're in love with someone, that person looks better to you because he's nice to you. He becomes ugly when he's not being good to you. That's what the song is about. It's how a person changes to you with the way he treats you. It struck a chord," she said.

Bacharach is different from her ballads. "Everything is different from what I do, which is always fun. I learn to explore," she said.

This is the third play where she teams up with Robin. "It's always fun. We get to go to rehearsals together. We give each other tips. I respect him as an actor. He's very gifted. I help him out in his singing."

Rachel is responsible for getting Robin a good role in Atlantis' production of "Rent." She motivated him to learn his music and character so that he could even sing his lines in his sleep. Director Bobby Garcia was impressed by Robin's thorough preparation. Talk about the saying that behind a man's success is a woman.

At 72, Burt Bacharach is still hip

STYLING BY RAJO LAUREL
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY RUSTY LEDESMA, H SALON, RUSTAN'S MAKATI
LOCATION: MEMORABILIA AND COLLECTIBLES, 842 LAUREL ST., MANDALUYONG

Although directors have this apprehension about couples working together, Rachel and Robin maintain a harmonious relationship that also reflects on their work.

"The only thing we argue about is that I like to be early for rehearsal. Robin likes to take his time. It's always a struggle. We strike a compromise. I don't like the tension of being late for rehearsals," she said.

Cynical lyrics

To Michael, appearing in a Neil Simon musical-comedy as Chuck Baxter, a nerd, may seem like a breeze. Consider his impressive achievements: directing the longest running children's musical "Cinderella"; singing, dancing and exposing his butt in Denisa Reyes' "Undressing the Icon"; nudity in "Angels in America"; and being weighed down by beads and heavy makeup in his drag numbers in "La Cage Aux Follies"

Michael considers comedy the most fun. "The response is immediate. If you tell a joke well, the audience laughs. They have no choice. If you do drama, they hold back their tears. They're too embarrassed to show their feelings. A joke well told shows that you are on the right track. Guffaws are evident. The comic timing is important."

BEADED shift by Rajo Laurel and scallop printed shirt

Michael can easily relate to the music because he grew up in that era. His father listened to Bacharach. In this musical the songs that hit the charts in the '60s and which were popularized by Bacharach's muse, Dionne Warwick, are "Whoever You Are," "Wanting Things," "Go While the Going Is Good," "I'll Never Fall in Love Again" and the title song , "Promises, Promises."

Although Warwick sang these songs out of the play's context, they were hits because of the catchy melodies and lyrics that revealed the truth about love and its illusions.

Here, Williams sings "Promises, Promises" in disappointment for not getting his part of the bargain. Beneath the innocence of the melodies lies a pessimism, Williams said.

"The lyrics of most of the music are cynical," he explained. "Like, 'What do you get when you fall in love/You get enough germs to catch pneumonia/After you do, he'll never phone ya?"

Well, didn't a wise guy say that kissing is copious exchange of saliva? And, if the lyrics were written in the '70s, kiss and pneumonia would be reworded to fornication and sexually transmitted disease.

"Talk about cynics. The '60s was happy, go-go-go and carefree. Toward the end of the musical, the characters realize that there's a lot of stuff underneath the happiness. What Bart (Guingona, the director) finds interesting is the underlying tone of cynicism that gives it a kind of depth," said Michael.

"It makes it very Bart," said Rachel. Every season AAI comes up with black comedy. The director found the musical "cutting-edge" when it was first staged because of its adult themes and risqué dialogue. Although the script may seem tame by today's morality, it's Bacharach's suave, colorful music with sudden shifts in rhythm.

Styling

Costumes are an important element in "Promises, Promises." Designer Rajo Laurel is the wardrobe consultant. He explained that it was too costly to make the costumes from scratch, especially for a musical.

Laurel was inspired by such movies as "Pleasantville" and "In the Mood for Love." Just like in "Pleasantville," the colors of the costumes and sets are stark monochromatic. As the play picks up, so do the colors.

"The colors signify the two characters who are both losers," Rajo explained. "In the beginning, their lives are staid. From my interpretation, it's a dark play. People have the façade of being naive but they're actually very dark. Chuck rents out his apartment so upper echelons of business can use it for their affairs. Fran tries to commit suicide in the end. The costumes are more interesting in the second half of the play. One of my favorite scenes is in the Chinese restaurant where people hold their extramarital affairs. It's dark and seedy and the characters are dressed in cheongsams.

"My plan is to celebrate the era of found pieces. I did rework the pieces found in the *ukay-ukay* in Baguio and Bambang. I didn't want to make new things. You can't duplicate the materials, the technique and sewing in the late '60s."

Rajo pointed to the tailoring and the fabrics for the vintage menswear. "Even if I wanted to duplicate, it would come out 'trying hard.' This show is for people who enjoy vintage clothes because there's a lot of it here. I did not make the costumes from scratch. I'm just styling and looking for vintage pieces like most costume designers in the United States."

Is he doing a Patricia Field, the woman behind the successful sourcing of clothes in "Sex and the City"?

"*Kaunti*," he replied in his trademark singsong manner. "At least, even if the costumes get the flak from the press, I don't claim to own the designs," he said with a laugh.

"Promises, Promises" will be shown on Feb. 1, 2, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 3 and 10 at 3 p.m. at Onstage Theater, Greenbelt Mall. Call 536-5844 or Ticketworld at 891-5610.

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Arms, bomb cache sparks hunt for al-Qaida men

STORY ON PAGE A2

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2002 ★ 58 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL. 17 NO. 42 ₱15

Pinatubo 'monster' no monster

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN MARCELINO, Zambales—No huge, black creatures of the monstrous kind lurk

PINATUBO/ A5

WITH THIS ISSUE

All about Elan

- Meet Boracay's movers and shakers
- The calm, still center that is Mandala
- Let the polo games begin

US senator stirs furor for remark on RP

No way RP will be next Afghanistan

US troops covered by VFA–DOJ

BY NORMAN BORDADORA AND CARLITO PABLO

THE PRESENCE of US Special Forces in Basilan is consistent with the Constitution and the provisions of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement and Mutual Defense Treaty, Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee said yesterday.

But Teehankee told reporters at a press briefing that it would be up to the National Security Council to clear the air regarding constitutional issues and legal concerns when it convenes to discuss the Balikatan exercise dubbed "Kalayaan-Aguila 2002" next week.

He said the use of US military per-

US TROOPS/ A14

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

THE STATEMENT of a United States senator that the Philippines could be the next Afghanistan has triggered an uproar, with senators seeking a personal briefing from President Macapagal-Arroyo on the presence of US troops and activist groups demanding their immediate pullout.

A number of senators, mostly from the opposition, have filed a resolution stating that it was the duty of the head of state to inform the Senate about the legal parameters of the US military's supposed intervention in Philippine affairs. The Senate is the treaty-ratifying chamber of Congress.

Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, (KMP), said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes had made the Philippines "an extension of Fort Bragg."

"All US troops must be immediately pulled out of Philippine soil while a congressional inquiry is going on," Mariano said. "These Yankees must go home."

Wilson Fortaleza, president of the militant Sanlakas, said there was reason to believe Sen. Sam Brownback's statement and pointed out that this was the same view expressed by Newsweek international editor Fareed Zakaria.

Fortaleza noted that CNN asked Zakaria last month if he thought that the US would expand the anti-terrorist war to Iraq and the journalist replied, "No, I don't think it will be Iraq. More likely, a country like the Philippines."

The INQUIRER had learned that CNN is devoting a 30-minute special coverage of the US troops here for airing in the US.

"The controversial 'Balikatan' exercise in Basilan is a cover-up," Fortaleza said. "It is not a simple military exercise. It is an extension of the US war in Afghanistan. It is not a product of an

US SENATOR/ A14

BARRED from entering the premises of the Edsa Shrine, members of the militant group, Sanlakas, march from Cubao to the People Power Monument adjacent to Camp Aguinaldo to hold their anti-Macapagal rally. JOAN BONDOC

Guingona says he's behind GMA

BY NORMAN BORDADORA, JULIET JAVELLANA AND DONA PAZZIBUGAN

VICE President Teofisto Guingona Jr. finally went on record yesterday to express support for the administration's decision to allow US combat troops in Basilan and Zamboanga.

He also said he was not going to resign as foreign affairs secretary.

"I fully support the President and the operations the government is conducting with the objective of rescuing the hostages of the Abu Sayyaf Group," Guingona told reporters at the DFA yesterday afternoon who asked him if he supported the RP-US military exercise.

"I will not resign as foreign affairs secretary."

Guingona however said he would still discuss questions on the legality and constitutionality of the presence of US Special Forces personnel in Basilan and Zamboanga when the National Security Council meets next week.

Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada Jr. said Guingona admitted to him yesterday that he was "confused about what's going on."

"*Hindi niya maintindihan* (He couldn't understand it)," Lozada said.

GUINGONA/ A14

Ping wants Gloria to finish her term

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

A YEAR after his patron fell from grace, Sen. Panfilo Lacson wants President Macapagal-Arroyo to finish her term.

"Let her finish her term in 2004 because changing presidents often is troublesome," the police chief of ousted President Joseph Estrada said Thursday night.

Lacson said a frequent changing of the guards was not good for the economy.

Two other opposition senators, Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Blas Ople, are singing the same tune.

"We just have to look at 2004 as the day of reckoning," Oreta said.

PING/ A5

QUIAPO Muslims on Friday travel to Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, where their idol is detained for rebellion charges. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Solon warns of Jolo police mutiny

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO, TJ BURGONIO *in Manila* AND JULIE S. ALIPALA *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A MUTINY may be in the offing if the government goes ahead with its plan to pull out of Sulu former Moro fighters integrated into the police, according to Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen.

Dilangalen said Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin had told him that police integrees wanted the Marines pulled out as well of Sulu to prevent the soldiers from retaliating against the families of the policemen in the province.

"You can expect a mutiny if national police chief Leandro Mendoza will force the issue of transferring the integrees to Parang, Maguindanao," Dilangalen said in a phone interview. "I hope I'm wrong."

The police integrees are former members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) whose stronghold is Sulu.

They figured in a firefight with Ma-

SOLON/ A14

Jolo carnage: Raw hatred runs amuck

BY NORALYN MUSTAFA *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

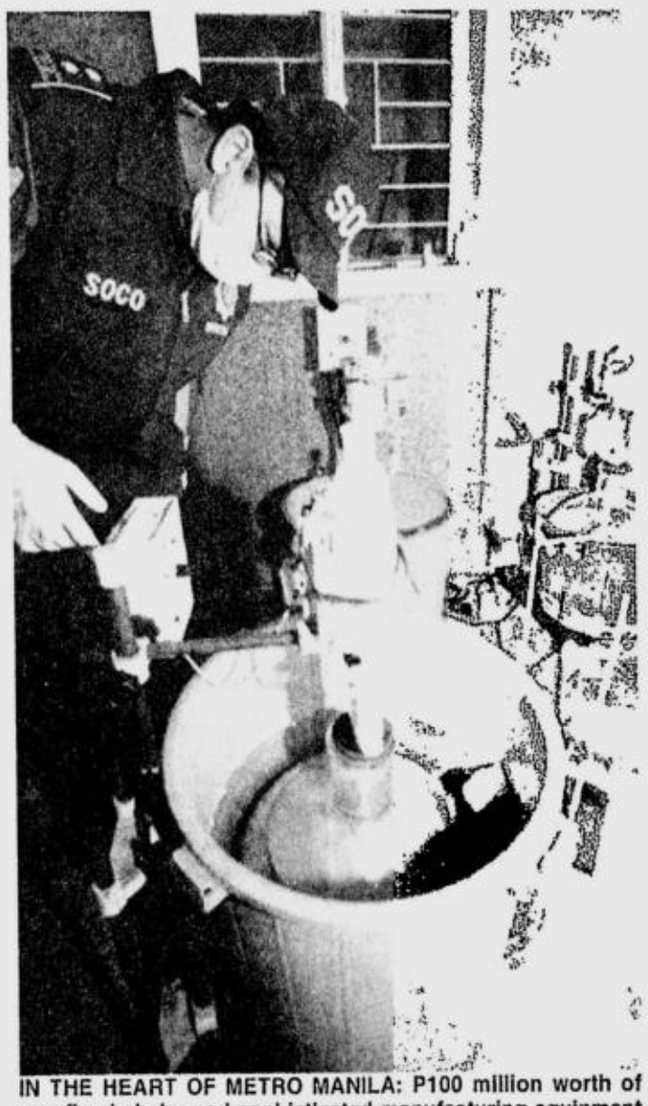
JOLO, Sulu—They mauled a Marine to death. They made mincemeat out of the dead Scout Rangers. Who are they? It depends on which version of the story one can believe of the two-day carnage here that left 21 people dead and many others injured.

The seeds of violence sprouted soon after former ARMM Governor Nur Misuari was brought back to the country from detention in Malaysia. Rumors had then started circulating that his remaining forces, reportedly in alliance with Abu Sayyaf elements, would attack the town of Jolo and hold it hostage in exchange for the unconditional release of their beleaguered leader.

Although it was just a rumor among many that keep hounding this town ever since Misuari held a "Bangsamoro congress" in Silangkan, Parang, reiterating his bid for a "Bangsamoro Republik," the townfolk had braced themselves for renewed hostilities.

So when about 5:15 of Tuesday, Jan. 15, bursts of gunfire shattered the afternoon stillness, everyone thought the expected marauders had indeed broken through the military checkpoints just when

JOLO/ A14



IN THE HEART OF METRO MANILA: P100 million worth of unrefined shabu and sophisticated manufacturing equipment are seized on Friday by a police anti-narcotics team from a laboratory at 93 Araullo corner Montessori St. in Barangay Addition Hills, San Juan. *(Story on Page A3.)* VAL HANDUMON

Second FRONT PAGE

Hunt on for al-Qaida men tagged by arrested Indon

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL AND TJ BURGONIO

INTELLIGENCE agents are hunting several foreigners and Filipinos believed to be members of an international terrorist group with links to the al-Qaida network.

The search began after the discovery of a large cache of explosives and firearms in General Santos City Thursday and the arrest of an Indonesian national who allegedly bought the explosives for delivery to other Asean countries.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta identified the Indonesian as Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi or "Abu Saad."

Seized from al-Ghozi after he was arrested in Quiapo, Manila, on Jan. 15 was a fake passport, plane tickets and other documents.

Mabanta said he was part of a group operating in the country called Jemaah Islamiyah and was also wanted in Malaysia.

Al-Ghozi also reportedly admitted participation in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila that killed 18 persons and wounded over a hundred others.

"Al-Ghozi has links to the different terrorist groups operating in Mindanao and Metro Manila and was involved in different bombings in the Philippines, including the Dec. 30, 2000 incident," Mabanta said in a telephone interview.

The suspect, Mabanta said, has identified a certain "Mukhlis Yunus" as one of those who gave financial support to the group behind the Dec. 30 bombings.

Al-Ghozi's organization, Jemaah Islamiyah, is an Islamic group that Mabanta said has "tentacles worldwide, particularly in Southeast Asian countries."

"During interrogation, he admitted he was an Indonesian temporarily staying in the Philippines to procure explosives," Mabanta said.

"He said he bought 1,100 kilograms of explosives from his contacts in Cebu City sometime last year. He said the explosives were transported from Cebu to General Santos by his contacts, then delivered to other Asean countries," Mabanta said.

In the Philippines, Mabanta said, al-Ghozi was able to establish contact with "the more radical faction of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front."

He reportedly entered the Philippines illegally sometime in 1996-97 after studies at Truhum, a place located at the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

There, Mabanta said, he was recruited into the Jemaah Islamiyah together with other foreign students.

He was trained to handle weapons in Pakistan and speaks English, Tagalog and Maguindanao.

On Thursday, military intelligence agents backed by police recovered 50 boxes of TNT, 17 M16 rifles, 300 detonators, a ton of explosive boosters and six rolls of detonating cord from the General Santos house where al-Ghozi had them stored.

Al-Ghozi, 30, has been placed in the custody of Army intelligence prior to the filing of charges.

He was described as a freedom fighter and an explosives trainer for the MILF.

Police Director General Leandro Mendoza said they were still verifying al-Ghozi's links to the al-Qaida with Interpol.

"He's allegedly a member of al-Qaida. We're verifying this through Interpol," Mendoza said, noting some suspected members of the terrorist network were arrested recently in Singapore and Malaysia.

Al-Ghozi was arrested in Quiapo at around 5 a.m. Tuesday, three hours before he was to fly to Bangkok, by elements of the PNP Intelligence Group, PNP Task Force "Sanlahi," National Capital Region Police Office, the Intelligence and Security Group of the Army and the Bureau of Immigration.

His arrest was based on a mission order issued by Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo on Monday.

Mendoza said it was al-Ghozi who tipped off police about his three Filipino cohorts in General Santos City who had a cache of explosives.

"During investigation, he spilled the beans. He actually cooperated with us. So we applied for a search warrant from the General Santos City courts," Mendoza said.

Elements of the PNP, Philippine Army and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission, under Senior Supt. Jaime Caringal, arrested brothers Mohammad, Almuctar and Mualidin Malagat during a raid on two houses in Barangay Labangal, General Santos City, Thursday afternoon.

The 50 boxes of trinitrotoluene (TNT) were powerful enough to level a block of houses, police said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez directed prosecutors in General Santos City to prioritize the filing of charges against those arrested in connection with the bomb cache.

Perez said he wants the case to prosper to serve as an example to those planning to stage bombings.

Police said charges against the Malagat brothers would be filed as soon as their interrogation is over.

The suspects are being held under heavy guard at Camp Fermin G. Lira in General Santos City.

A police source said they are still searching for more explosives that al-Ghozi may have hidden in the city. *With Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ESTRADA

Now, it's the teeth, gums that bug Erap

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

THIS time it's dental problems that are gnawing at the detained ex-president Joseph Estrada.

The disgraced leader is scheduled to have his teeth and gums treated this morning after he was found to be suffering from periodontal disease, a condition characterized by swelling and receding gums and sensitive teeth.

Compared to previous medical concerns, however, Estrada's lawyers did not seek the Sandiganbayan's approval for the procedure as Estrada will be treated right at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City where he is detained.

The 64-year-old Estrada recently had a cataract removed from his left eye in a private clinic in Makati City.

He has a pending request before the anti-graft court to be allowed to undergo knee surgery in the US. This is strongly opposed by state prosecutors and civil society groups that pushed for his ouster a year ago.

Dr. Hermogenes Villareal, a private dentist, will lead a team that will perform the 4-hour operation.

In his Jan. 14 letter to VMMC director Salvador Flores, Villamor said the ex-president would have to undergo "periodontal surgery with bone-grafting procedure," among other treatments.

Other procedures listed include "painful root canal treatment, permanent fillings, and fabrication of full upper and lower procelain jacket crowns."

Estrada's personal physician, Dr. Larry Hocson, said the ex-president's dental problems had not actually caused any nagging toothache but merely made his teeth very sensitive.

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DOH plans house-to-house drive vs polio

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

THE HEALTH department will go house to house to ensure that all 12 million Filipino children aged 59 months and below are fully vaccinated against polio.

In a statement, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit assured the public his department has the 14.5 million anti-polio doses needed for the initial phase of the Balik-Patak Kontra Polio program.

"As you can see, we are pulling out all the stops to make the campaign succeed," Dayrit said.

The program's initial phase will be on Feb. 2-8, with the last phase on March 2-8.

Although parents can bring their children to health centers, DOH and other health personnel will go door to door to ensure that all children are vaccinated.

After a child is immunized, their fingernail will be "painted" and their house marked with chalk to signify that they had been vaccinated.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the vaccination campaign after health officials found three children who were infected with a new strain of the polio virus.

Although the country is largely polio-free, the new strain threatens to attack even those children already vaccinated.

"The reason the virus has mutated is (the government's) failure to maintain routine infant vaccination" due to the "erratic supply of vaccines over the past two years," Dayrit said.

Drug lab raided: 7 Sinos held, ₱100-M shabu seized

BY TJ BURGONIO

ANTI-NARCOTICS agents arrested seven Chinese nationals and seized some P100-million worth of unrefined shabu in a raid on a suspected drug laboratory in San Juan, Metro Manila, yesterday afternoon.

Director Efren Fernandez, chief of the police Narcotics Group, identified the suspects as Chua Sak Hap, Tian Sang, Q Che-Nang, Cha Bo, Chang Hong and Chit Di-ak, all chemists, and Chua Tok Sit, a chemist helper. All hail reportedly from Fujian, China.

The raiding team found a large amount of unrefined methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, as well as 213 kilos of ephedrine, 208 bottles of ethanol, 284 bottles of acetone, four sets of rotary evaporators and several distillation machines and high-tech laboratory equipment and paraphernalia used to make shabu.

The suspects were working in the lab when the NarcGroup agents swooped down on the one-story house at 93 Araullo corner Montessori Street in Barangay Addition Hills, San Juan, at around 4 p.m.

The drug lab, which was believed to have been operating for at least five years, was producing an average of 240 kilos of shabu a month, or P500 million worth of the illicit drug, Fernandez said.

This was the fourth shabu lab raided by police in the country since January last year.

"We have been monitoring this for quite some time . . . just to find out that right in the heart of Metro Manila there's this shabu manufacturing laboratory," Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, said over the radio.

Mendoza said the presence of the laboratory was not detected since it did not emit any odor because of the sophisticated equipment that was being used.

Mendoza, who inspected the laboratory after the raid, said he has ordered investigators to find out who are the local contacts of the arrested Chinese.

"They will all go to jail," Mendoza said.

San Juan, whose mayor and previous mayor are sons of ousted president Joseph Estrada, had been declared "drug free" by the two Estradas during their terms.

Current Mayor JV Ejercito recently ordered the testing for drugs of all public and private employees in the town, an order that was roundly criticized and which he quickly remanded.

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GMA to visit 6 poor areas Sunday

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

INSTEAD of inviting the poor to the Edsa Shrine to commemorate the people power uprising that put her in power, President Macapagal-Arroyo will visit on Jan. 20 six urban poor communities representative of the vaunted mass base of her ousted predecessor.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman said the focus of the first anniversary of Edsa II would not be the shrine nor the leading personalities in the four-day uprising.

Instead, Edsa II will be a tribute to the ordinary Filipinos who made "People Power II" possible, said Soliman, one of the prominent civil society leaders who spearheaded the Edsa II uprising. She is co-chair of the program committee of the government-sponsored part of the commemoration.

"The aim is to remember and honor the ordinary people right in their communities," Soliman said in a press briefing at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

"The ordinary people will be heard," she said.

Malacañang sought to further win the hearts of the poor with the launching yesterday of the President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Payatas Scholarship Program which would send to school some 400 children residing in the Quezon City dumpsite.

The beneficiaries are neighbors of the six Payatas children who were presented in Congress during the President's State of the Nation Address last year.

An initial group of 30 elementary and high school scholars received certificates of scholarship at twin launching ceremonies at Barangay Lupang Pangako in Payatas and at the Kasiglahan Village in Rizal province yesterday.

Each scholar would receive up to P10,000 a year to be taken out of the President's Social Fund.

Soliman said the new scholarship program was focused on elementary and high school students and is meant to complement the PGA Scholarship Program for college, vocational and technical education of urban poor youth in Metro Manila.

Ms Macapagal will be visiting on Jan. 20 an urban poor Muslim community in Culiat, Quezon City; Kristong Hari at the National Government Center site in Quezon City; Payatas A in Quezon City, where the President will partake of a poor man's lunch; Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila; Napocor Village in Muntinlupa; and Welfareville in Mandaluyong City.

Soliman said the President would spend some time with the urban poor, to talk to them and hear their views on how the government and the community can help in alleviating poverty.

She belied reports that the administration had neglected the six Payatas children who were presented in the President's Sona last year. She said the children were receiving educational assistance from the government and regular allowances from an anonymous donor.

She said Jason Vann Banogan and Erwin Dolera are enrolled at the St. Vincent's School, a private school near Payatas, along with three other unnamed "Sona children."

Jomer Pabalan is enrolled in a public school in Kasiglahan because there is no private elementary school in the village.

"The children are in good condition," said Soliman.

A recent TV documentary report accused the government of neglecting the Sona children.

Soliman said it was not Malacañang's idea to push the children into the limelight to represent the administration's anti-poverty program, just like what Mang Pandoy was to the Ramos administration.

"It was the media which sought them out and played up their plight. They were media's creation," she said.

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Heavy security trails Gloria in Tondo sorties

A TRUCKLOAD of policemen and at least two dozen Air Force personnel were deployed to secure President Macapagal-Arroyo during a visit early yesterday to two known bailiwicks of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada.

Ms Macapagal went to the squatter communities of Isla Puting Bato and Parola in Tondo, Manila, to mark the first anniversary of the second people power uprising that brought her to power.

Reporters who covered her previous visits there were surprised by the heavy security.

Authorities believe residents of the two squatter communities had joined the attempt by followers of Estrada to storm Malacañang in May 1 last year.

The crowd that waited for Ms Macapagal at Isla Puting Bato was composed mostly of housewives and young children.

Very few adult males could be seen in the crowd.

The President distributed school bags and plastic pails containing rice, sugar, noodles and sardines.

She did not give away land titles.

Instead, the President told the Parola residents that they could now buy the land where they had put up their shanties.

She said the 9.6-hectare government property was now ready for distribution to qualified residents.

She said the Philippine Ports Authority was preparing to clear another 9-hectare portion of Parola for distribution.

At Isla Puting Bato, the crowd held up identical stenciled placards proclaiming their support for "Ate Glo" when the President arrived.

When the President began distributing the goodies, however, the women and schoolchildren who had been waiting for her in the heat for more than two hours, became unruly and tried to get up the makeshift stage.

The famously punctual Ms Macapagal arrived at Isla Puting Bato 40 minutes late for her 11 a.m. appointment.

She left after 30 minutes to go to the Parola Compound.

Dona Pazzibugan

Esperon takes over PSG command

COL. Hermogenes Esperon yesterday formally assumed command of the elite Presidential Security Group in ceremonies held at the Malacañang Park.

Esperon, former commander of the Army's 103rd Brigade in Basilan, replaced Brig. Gen. Glen Rabonza who is now President Macapagal-Arroyo's senior military aide.

Rabonza replaced Brig. Gen. Alberto Braganza who is now commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

Esperon was former deputy commander of the PSG during the term of then President Fidel Ramos. *Carlito Pablo*

Japan to set up reg'l TB center here

JAPAN will set up a Southeast Asian regional center for tuberculosis prevention in the Philippines, Japanese officials announced yesterday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo accepted a proposal from Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's when he visited the country last week, the Japanese Embassy said.

The center will be established under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Information and Human Network for Infectious Disease Control.

For the past 10 years, Japan has been transferring to the Philippines techniques in tuberculosis prevention as part of its efforts to establish a network to fight against infectious diseases, the Embassy statement said. *AFP*

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

PHYSICAL RESOURCES BIDDING COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY & BID

The **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM** invites all interested contractors to prequalify and bid for the supply and delivery for the proposed upgrading and renovation of Information Technology Services Group (ITSG) office at Cores B and C, Level 2, GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.

Interested bidders with Philippine Contractors Accreditation (PCAB) license of "A" for General building and classification of at least Medium "B" for "Building" may secure standard pre-qualification forms from the Office of the Manager, Materials Management Department (MMD) during office hours at Level 1, Core B, GSIS Headquarters Bldg., Financial Center, Pasay City with Tel. Nos. 891-61-61 Loc. 4724 and 4720 or at 891-62-95 and 551-18-66, upon submission of a Letter of Interest. Pre-qualification documents must be returned, duly accomplished, to the same office not later than February 8, 2002.

Pre-qualified bidders shall be informed by mail or fax message of pre-bid conferences and bid schedules. All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bidding and award shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulation of PD 1594, as amended in May 24, and July 5, 2000.

GSIS/PRBC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECT(S) OR INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED, TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE OWNER AND DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE. THE DECISION OF THE GSIS/PRBC IN THIS REGARD SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

(Sgd.) PRISCILLA M. RABINA
Chairman
Physical Resources Bidding Committee

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(From page A1)

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The tailings came from the 50-year-old operations of the Benguet-Dizon Mines in the village. The company stopped mining in 1993, two years after Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions and on the heels of slump in world prices of copper and gold.

According to Bien, several tests showed that the water at nearby Mapanuepe Lake was contaminated and the fish there could not be eaten by humans. The residents, he recalled, had long been warned about this.

The lake, which formed after the Pinatubo eruptions and which submerged parts of Buhawen and Pili, is right next to the company's tailing dam.

The company, in an effort to convince the residents that no ecological harm had been done by reported mercury spills, propagated *tilapia* in the Mapanuepe River sometime in 1990. A company official said the water level rose there, causing the water to flow back and bringing the fish to Tikis.

Bien said *nilotica* species have high tolerance for pollution.

The fish, he added, may have adjusted to the Tikis habitat even with its mine tailings.

Although the mystery is solved, he said the tribe might just have to wait, perhaps until after February when water samplings are done, before they can resume fishing at Tikis.

And what happened to the binoculars, the technology that helped the Aetas to get over their fears?

Bien did not want to part with it because it was useful to the BFAR.

Apen said they wanted to keep it in the village and, through its lenses, closely monitor the natural changes in their place.

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(From page A1)

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Bien warned that the water might be contaminated with heavy metal from mine tailings found in the eastern tail of the river.

The tailings came from the 50-year-old operations of the Benguet-Dizon Mines in the village. The company stopped mining in 1993, two years after Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions and on the heels of slump in world prices of copper and gold.

According to Bien, several tests showed that the water at nearby Mapanuepe Lake was contaminated and the fish there could not be eaten by humans. The residents, he recalled, had long been warned about this.

The lake, which formed after the Pinatubo eruptions and which submerged parts of Buhawen and Pili, is right next to the company's tailing dam.

The company, in an effort to convince the residents that no ecological harm had been done by reported mercury spills, propagated *tilapia* in the Mapanuepe River sometime in 1990. A company official said the water level rose there, causing the water to flow back and bringing the fish to Tikis.

Bien said *nilotica* species have high tolerance for pollution.

The fish, he added, may have adjusted to the Tikis habitat even with its mine tailings.

Although the mystery is solved, he said the tribe might just have to wait, perhaps until after February when water samplings are done, before they can resume fishing at Tikis.

And what happened to the binoculars, the technology that helped the Aetas to get over their fears?

Bien did not want to part with it because it was useful to the BFAR.

Apen said they wanted to keep it in the village and, through its lenses, closely monitor the natural changes in their place.

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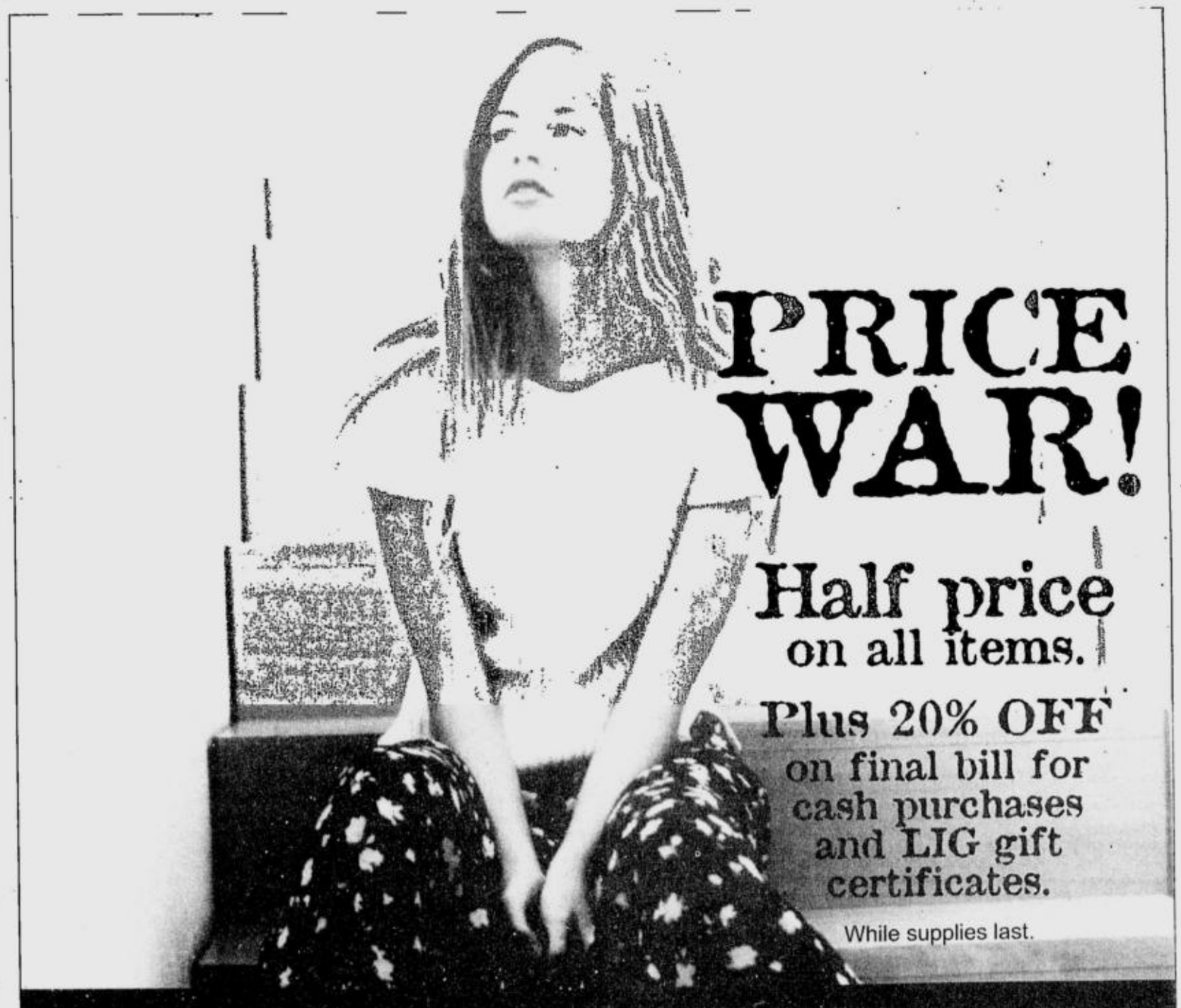

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OPINION

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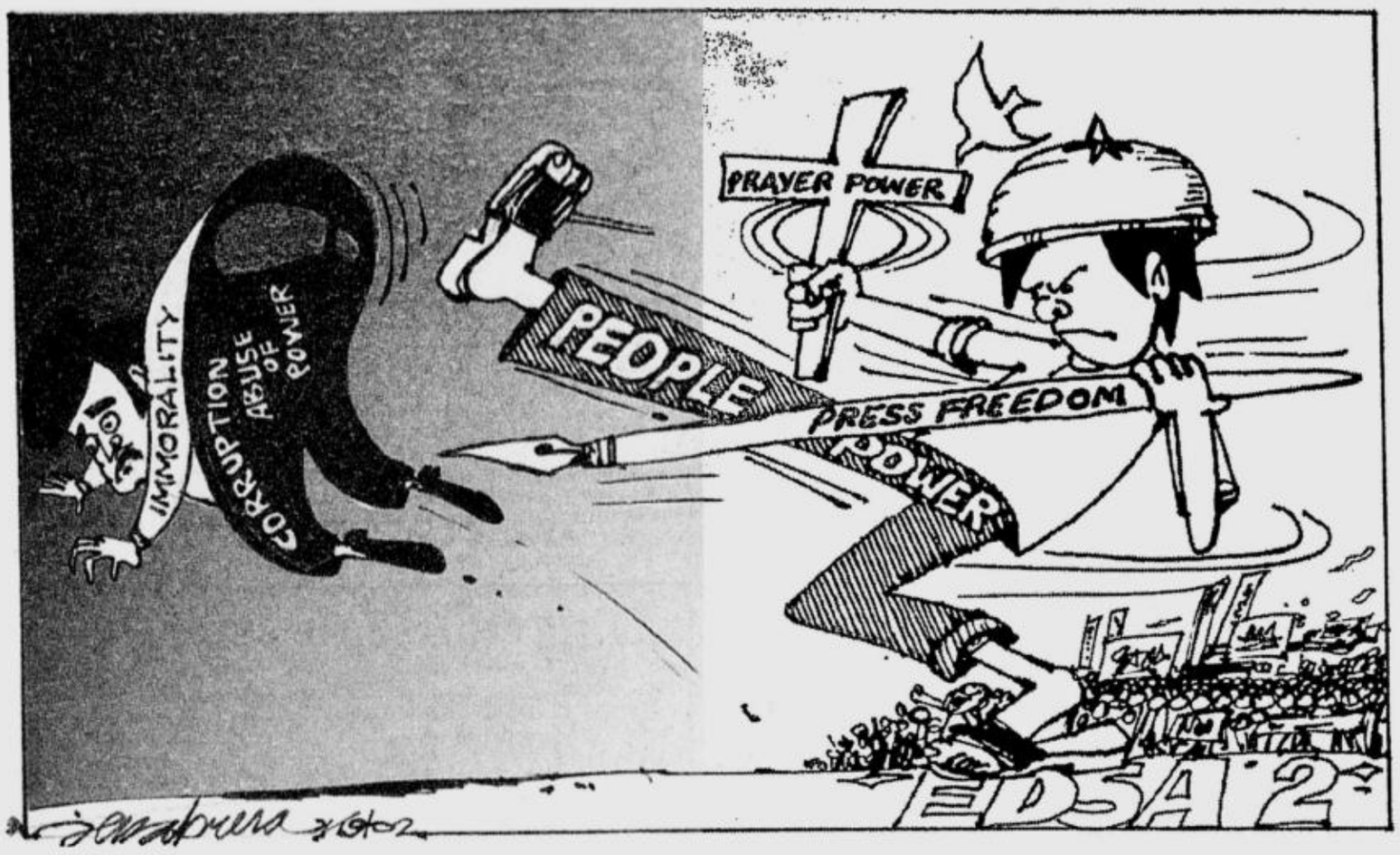

A year after Edsa II

EDITORIAL

ONE year into her presidency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's performance has come under scorching public scrutiny. On the eve of the anniversary of People Power II which installed her in the presidency, she faces rising disenchantment from some of her allies who coalesced in the Estrada-resign campaign and who are now seeking to change her either through a coup d'état or some other wild, undemocratic scheme.

The military and the police have taken security measures to prevent demonstrations from turning into turbulent riots. The broad coalition that backed her in the campaign to oust Estrada has fractured. But despite all the rumors of coup plots and voices of discontent, her performance—albeit uneven—can stand close scrutiny.

After a year of her presidency, the economic picture is not so grim as the political landscape where disgruntled groups, including her former allies, are trying to foment political turmoil. Surprisingly, independent regional economists are upbeat about the rebound of the Philippine economy in 2002.

"Although the Philippine economy has been one of the weakest regional performers since the Asian crisis, there has been a steady flow of better-than-expected news in recent months," Lehman Brothers said. Economists have noted the successful efforts by the government to control the fiscal deficit. They cited stronger than expected economic growth in the fourth quarter last year, a resilient agricultural sector, relative political stability and the low rate of inflation as reasons to consider the Philippines seriously as an investment destination.

Reuters news agency reported that Deutsche Bank has revised upwards its 2001 growth forecast for the country to 3 percent from 2.8 percent. This forecast is closer to the government's forecast of a 3.7 percent growth in gross domestic product for the fourth quarter, and 3.3 percent for the whole of 2001.

ING Barings joined the chorus of bullish outlook by foreign banks. "The Philippines is an improving credit risk," the Barings report said. "Economic performance demonstrated the resiliency of this domestic-demand driven economy. With investor confidence on the rise, thanks to enhanced political stability and stronger economic growth, economic performance this year should demonstrate that the economic performance in 2001 was not an accident."

Thanks to the proclivity of Filipinos to shoot themselves in the feet, they are the worst enemy of their country's recovery from economic slowdown and political turbulence. Filipino businessmen complain that the President does not lead, that her managerial style does not inspire, and that she lacks charisma. There is, however, consensus that she has managed the economy well, despite the global economic downturn, even if the results are not spectacular. These results simply confirm that her strength lies in economic management rather than in governance where critics fault her for her political style and alleged obsession to get reelected in 2004.

The Catholic Church, a key institution responsible for the mobilization of people power, has seen the dangers of mindless political bashing to change the government through street mass action. Although the Church is far from satisfied with the administration's record of governance and its inadequate attention to poverty and the poor—a breeding ground for popular unrest—it has applied the brakes on efforts by disenchanted groups to use the People Power II anniversary to launch another people power uprising.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has issued an appeal to give the administration a chance to work, and cited "unrealistic expectations" of people in a one-year-old government as partly responsible for pulling down the administration whose public approval rating has dropped in recent polls. The appeal followed Jaime Cardinal Sin's observation two weeks ago that the "people are tired" of seemingly unceasing bouts of "political turmoil." Sin said that since May 1, when the mob incited by Estrada's leaders stormed Malacañang, the government "has not been given a chance to do its task for the people undisturbed."

While the Church has not been happy with the President's overall performance, it has seen the dangers of abusing people power as a weapon to change governments capriciously at the whim of people and groups driven by narrow interests.

On the balance, the Macapagal presidency's qualified achievements, especially in the economy, have been given less than fair credit by its detractors who have exaggerated its faults.

Fraternity friendships

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE RECENT decision of the Court of Appeals on the Lenny Villa case brings to mind the practice of hazing in UP during my time. That was in the late '40s when I took my pre-law studies in the Cancer Building and my freshman law in the Engineering Building, both at the Padre Faura complex.

I don't know if it is still the rule now but the selection then of the editor in chief of the Philippine Collegian was a two-step process. First there was an editorial writing contest among wannabe journalists; then the Student Council elected from those who qualified the head of the incoming editorial staff.

The first step required skill in writing, the second step, political connections. A qualifying candidate might write better than his rivals, but he would have no chance of landing the contested post if he did not have the support of the Student Council. That was where the fraternities came in. It was a point of honor among them to make their candidate win, not necessarily because he was the best writer but because he had the political clout.

My friend Armando Manalo, who later became a well-known columnist and ambassador, vied for the editorship and easily qualified in the writing contest but did not get the top position. His closest competitor won because he had his fraternity to support him. I must say here, to be fair, that he was also an excellent writer but, realistically, it was his fraternity that made him win. Manalo did not have a chance in the election because he was, as they were called then, a "barbarian."

I was the executive editor of the Collegian at that time, which may have been the reason one of the big fraternities considered me a potential candidate for editor in chief. It really had nothing to do with talent; I was merely regarded as possible "material," with a chance to qualify in the writing contest. Against that remote possibility, I was invited to be a "brod." I accepted albeit with no particular enthusiasm.

Soon enough, I became fair game to the fraternity members, who were to be my "masters" during the initiation period. One of them immediately pounced on me and demanded, rather mockingly, that I kneel before him and polish his shoes. I refused because, truth to say, I had not even polished my own shoes. He wanted to know, now coldly, if I was disobeying his command and I said yes without any hostility. Well, that did it. That ended my brief experience with the practice called hazing.

At that, hazing was not that bad during those days. I heard there was some physical testing involved but not enough to maim or much less kill. The demands of the "masters" were mostly amusing, like delivering flowers to a campus belle or kissing a horse on a busy street. While under initiation, Enrique M. Belo, later to become an outstanding lawyer, was a very visible figure, fanning a "master" wherever they went. Six-footer Ike and his five-foot short "master" provided comic relief from our classroom ordeals.

I do not regret not joining a fraternity because I did not lose any friend because of my refusal. My best friend Fred bravely underwent the traditional hazing and was happily welcomed into his fraternity, but I would not say we became less close because I was not his "brod." Some say that mere common membership in a fraternity makes for enduring bonds but that may be just hyperbole. Members of the same fraternity are not necessarily fast friends and may even be bitter enemies or at least only indifferent acquaintances later. The fiction of mutual loyalty is often belied by actual and even open enmity among fraternity members.

The best example is Ferdinand Marcos, who belonged to one of the popular fraternities in UP. During his martial law regime, he persecuted some of his "brods" despite their supposedly undying friendship. He was more amiable with his classmates, whom he favored with choice appointments although not all of them belonged to his fraternity. Affection may deepen among sincere friends even without the benign influence of fraternity ties.

The number of Court of Appeals justices who are members of the Aquila Legis fraternity may give rise to suspicions of their interference in the Lenny Villa case, but these have yet to be confirmed. In any event, it is regrettable that, right or wrong, the acquittal of 19 of the accused can never be reviewed by the Supreme Court. As Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma said in one case, "However erroneous the order of the respondent court is, and although a miscarriage of justice resulted from said order, such error cannot be righted because of the timely plea of double jeopardy."

Mere membership in a fraternity is not a badge of dishonor but it is now tainted in the public eye because of its identification with the sadistic practice of physical hazing. Loyalty is not tested by subjecting the recruit to violence for the sheer pleasure of inflicting it. It is strange that this thought has not occurred to many otherwise respectable fraternities, which count among their members now esteemed leaders in their respective fields. Perhaps they entered at a time when hazing did not involve murder or homicide or even serious physical injuries.

None of my five sons, who are all UP graduates, is a fraternity member. They are nonetheless, by all accounts, "regular guys" with many close friends from their student days, including fraternity members. It's not the fraternities *per se* that they dislike but the practice of violent initiation as a test of loyalty. They simply believe, as their father does, that true friendship, with or without fraternity ties, rests on thoughtfulness, understanding, altruism and a healthy sense of humor.

Harsh condemnation

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I READ with interest the article written by the "Action For Economic Reform and Friends," where they accused CODE-NGO, the organization that raised P1.3 billion for its anti-poverty activities by trading in the financial markets, of engaging in "impermissible rent-seeking." They came to this conclusion, they say, as a result of a "cold analysis," rather than out of envy, ignorance, or political opportunism.

I concede that their criticism does not stem from ignorance or political opportunism. I hold them in the highest respect. But I also venture to say that they may be much too harsh in their condemnation, or much too strict in their interpretation of CODE-NGO's actions and motives.

Their definition of rent-seeking is standard: "resource-wasting activities of individuals in seeking transfers of wealth through the aegis of the State" or "activities whereby individuals seek returns from state-sanctioned monopoly rights" and as "the activity of setting a monopoly or getting some other government favor."

Applying the first definition, I don't see where CODE-NGO wasted any resources in seeking the alleged transfers—simply because it didn't have any resources to speak of in the first place. And if the AER, which acknowledges (in fact it seems to consider it a fault) that CODE-NGO didn't have any financial capital, thinks that what was used, and therefore wasted, was political capital, I'm not sure that I would regret such a waste, or that it should be considered a waste.

The claim that the government "lost" P1.4 billion on the deal, is disposed of in my daughter's letter below.

On the second definition, about monopoly rights: CODE-NGO got none from the state. That it tried to get it by pressing for a negotiated purchase of the zero-coupon bonds from the Treasury, there is no doubt—and that was reprehensible. For that, CODE-NGO has to answer to its peers in the NGO world. But the fact remains that National Treasurer Sergio Edeza decreed an auction (he in fact has discontinued the practice of negotiated sales). Which means that CODE-NGO, through its government securities dealer, RCBC, had no assurance of winning the deal. That's a far cry from having a monopoly.

Where CODE-NGO's use of its political capital succeeded was not in getting the government to issue those zero-coupon bonds, but in getting it to issue them sooner rather than later, because the Treasury had already been urged by various institutions to issue zero-coupons. But it would be again stretching the imagination to regard CODE-NGO's actions in the same class as the graft and corruption that occurred under Joseph Estrada.

Should CODE-NGO have shared its plans and its ideas with the rest of the NGO world? Or should the government have told the other NGOs of this scheme? The answer to the first is that that was between CODE and its conscience. The answer to the second is that as far as the Treasury was concerned, all dealers had access to the same information.

Finally, the matter of getting government favors. The AER would make it appear that the tax exemptions, and liquidity reserve eligibilities were given exclusively to the zero-coupon bonds as a favor to CODE-NGO. If it takes a closer look, it will find out that the features of the bonds were not in any way exclusive to it. This is a case of seeing things that are just not there.

My daughter, Toby, who has been in the NGO world longer than she has been with the government, offers, I think, the most balanced perspective on this issue when she writes:

"Dear Ma,

"This is in reaction to your recent columns on the Peace Bonds.

"I too believe that from technical, legal and procedural angles, the transaction was aboveboard. No public funds or favors were 'given away' by the Treasury/Executive nor did the Monetary Board act irregularly. Neither is it accurate to say that the government 'lost out' on P1.4 billion—the amount RCBC turned over to CODE-NGO: by the rules of a Dutch auction, the government had to sell the bonds at the price it did. So, even if RCBC had decided not to pay CODE-NGO, government would not have been able to appropriate that 'surplus' anyway.

"Likewise, I believe that if anyone acted with utmost propriety, it was Lito Camacho who inhibited himself when he became DOF secretary. He—his confirmation as finance secretary that is—should not be held hostage for this transaction.

"However, in trying to diffuse any political posturing anticipated during Lito Camacho's confirmation, I do not think the 'mistakes' made by CODE-NGO and the PEACE foundation should be excused or downplayed as some may interpret from your columns. On the contrary, I believe that these should be questioned and dissected, precisely so that the confirmation hearings of Camacho are not used as a proxy venue to work out these civil society issues.

"While no one is perfect, it is the number and type of lapses in judgment made in succession by principals of CODE/PEACE foundation that is very disturbing. These lapses may speak of naiveté but from the explanations offered by the principals, more likely of hubris and/or an opportunistic interpretation of propriety concerns and ethical behavior. Notwithstanding efforts to now modify at least one of these decisions (e.g. such as to substitute Ayala Foundation as a project holder), it is these judgment calls and their implications to future advocacy campaigns that the NGO community needs to confront using its explicit and implicit codes of ethics."

Amen.

GMA and VP must patch up differences

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THIS columnist has been receiving a lot of phone calls from people who are nervous about possible destabilization moves by the opposition, perhaps in cahoots with a few misguided elements in the military. I tell them, however, that two recent developments are very encouraging. First, there were the calls issued by Iglesia ni Cristo leader Eraño Manalo and Brother Mike Velarde of the El Shaddai to their respective flocks not to participate in any anti-government moves in the next few days. Without the participation of those two big religious groups, the sympathizers of deposed President Estrada cannot muster a sizable crowd even if they paid a king's ransom. Then also, two military groups have disavowed any intention to mount destabilizing moves. Doubtless, its officers are now aware of how disastrous coup attempts can be for their children's future. Nonetheless, the next few days should be days of prayer for peace, understanding and unity.

* * *

With problems on several fronts—Basilan and Sulu, the world economic slowdown and the coming of the American forces—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Teofisto Guingona cannot afford to be at odds. I understand that former President Fidel V. Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia are trying hard to patch up whatever differences the two top officials have. I spoke to a few Lakas partymates of the top leaders and they felt bad about the rift between these leaders but they were also optimistic that by next Wednesday, when the National Security Council meets, things will be okay.

* * *

Ms Macapagal and Guingona have to stay united as the top team. Guingona is said to be miffed at being kept in the dark about the coming of the American troops though at the big reception he hosted at the DFA last Wednesday evening for the diplomatic corps and members of Congress, he gave no hint of his alleged ill-feelings. In fact after his welcome speech, he explained, in answer to a question from a diplomat, the administration's major diplomatic thrust, which is, to forge economic diplomacy to help improve the lot of the majority of Filipinos suffering from economic deprivation, among them those who are forced to seek jobs abroad. I have talked with Guingona on several occasions prior to his reported rift with his boss, and I noted that he was all-out in supporting her.

* * *

But I've talked to some people who know what's going on in the DFA, and it appears that there have been instances when Guingona was "kept out of the loop." If it's true that the Vice President, who chairs the Visiting Forces Commission on the Philippine side, wasn't told about the arrival of the US forces for the Balikatan exercises, one possible explanation could be that the Americans are uncomfortable with his nationalist stance in the past. Two newspapers mentioned the existence of what appears to be a shadow DFA, said to be headed by former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo, which is doing paperwork on many issues, and even recommends appointments over the head of Guingona. One columnist even claimed that Romulo was doing all this "on orders of the US State Department." My DFA sources confirmed the existence of this shadowy office referred to only as "Sikatuna." What seems to hurt Guingona is that this arrangement seems to have the encouragement of the Palace.

* * *

I am sorry about what's happening in the DFA and to a competent, decent and hard-working man like Guingona. His situation vis-à-vis the Americans reminds me of the late Secretary Raul Manglapus' predicament: deep in his heart he was very much against the US bases, but he had to negotiate for the extension of the bases treaty as it was the policy of the Aquino administration. Guingona is principled, but he is doubtless also a team player who is interested in moving this administration forward.

Perhaps there is a problem of communication between him and Ms Macapagal, a matter of give and take. But definitely the shadow organization shouldn't be allowed to undermine his leadership in the DFA; perhaps it's even to the national interest to keep him as a balance to the resurgence of the American hand in Philippine affairs. Guingona, an Ateneo-trained former human rights lawyer and author of law books and born into a family of distinguished public servants, came to the DFA with perhaps the widest experience in public service among the secretaries who served there. There is no reason why he cannot handle the job well, with the support of the President. He brings to the DFA all the wisdom and experience derived from three decades of continuous public service.

* * *

Peter Wallace, president of the Economist Intelligence Unit and publisher of a monthly publication of economic and political data for multinationals, wrote to say that he was inspired to write a reaction to an item here detailing our interview over dzRH with Prof. Romulo Neri, chief of the House Planning and Budget Office, about the administration's plan to revive the commuter trains to and from the provinces around Metro Manila. In that radio program, we concluded that one of the best and surest ways to decongest the metropolis is to ensure that people who relocate outside would be able to get to their work in the city on time and in an efficient and safe manner.

Wallace suggests that the construction of an integrated road and rail system that interconnects the key economic centers from Tarlac in the north to Batangas in the south be rushed "in one seamless model" to decongest the metropolis and perk up economic activity in Luzon. Once this is completed, he says, it would be possible to transport a container from Batangas to Clark in less than three hours, or from the furthermost tip of Calabarzon in Quezon to the Manila Port in two hours, instead of the current average of at least four to five hours, plus nine to 15 hours of the truck ban. He opines that it should be possible for someone living in Cavite to get to work in Makati in 30 minutes, if two principal components are put in place: an expressway system that "seamlessly" connects all key centers in an uninterrupted traffic flow, and a completed light-rail system that can transport commuters to and from their work swiftly and efficiently, with all provincial buses unloading at specially designed terminals of the northern and southern sectors of Greater Manila on to the LRT system. This is the way all modern big cities abroad handle the task of transporting millions of commuters. Metro Manilans dream of the day they can enjoy this, too.

Basilan and Mogadishu

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

CITIZENS of a poor, troubled country are at the mercy of powerful criminals. Well-armed and commanding popular support, the criminals defy local authorities and continually challenge the law enforcement community. In response, an elite force of American troops is sent in, pitting their superior hardware and training against the guile and savagery of the elusive lawbreakers. Who—or what—will win? Military hardware or native ferocity?

This may sound like the scenario unfolding in Basilan, with the arrival of hundreds of US soldiers ostensibly to take part in military "exercises," but with the implicit mission to go after and capture the dreaded gang of bandits, the Abu Sayyaf. But the scenario is really the bare bones of the plot of "Black Hawk Down," which this early is already being hailed as one of the best war pictures ever made.

"Black Hawk Down" harks back to Mogadishu, Somalia, in October 1993, when the commanding general of a force of elite American Rangers and Delta Special Forces gambles on a daring raid to weaken Mohamed Farrah Aidid, perhaps the most powerful and vicious of Somalia's warlords. The US troops are in Somalia as part of a multinational United Nations peacekeeping force sent to the country in response to a humanitarian crisis: the death by starvation of over 300,000 Somalis. When foreign governments ship in food supplies, these are taken at gunpoint by elements of Somalia's warring clans, who do not hesitate to shoot their own people as they scramble for food.

When Aidid's thugs ambush and kill 24 Pakistani soldiers who are part of the UN contingent, US President Bill Clinton decides to send in elite forces to bring a quick end to the Somali crisis. The US command is given three weeks to bring the warlords to their knees, but as the events in the movie commence, they have been there for six weeks and are still caught in a standoff.

* * *

PERHAPS it is this sense of urgency that compels Maj. Gen. William Garrison to concoct a dangerous and audacious mission. He proposes to send a combined force of about 100 Rangers and Special Forces into the heart of Aidid's territory, a market district in downtown Mogadishu, where the warlord's top lieutenants are meeting.

The plan is simple: Special Forces are to "insert" themselves into the target building, arrest Aidid's confederates, load them on to Humvees which will then transport them to the American base. If things go according to plan, the entire mission should take only a little longer than 30 minutes.

But quickly things start to go wrong. Lookouts posted by Aidid's generals use cell phones to report the unusual movement of a large number of helicopters and vehicles from the American base. Residents start burning tires to alert the armed Somalian troops in the district. And when one, then a second, "Black Hawk" chopper is shot down by Somalian rockets, what should have been a "quick and clean" action turns into the bloody and prolonged "Battle of Mogadishu."

This is the story that the movie tells, a recounting that traces the fate of about 40 characters but is told mainly through the viewpoint of Staff Sgt. Matt Eversman, portrayed by Josh Hartnett, who is commanding one of the "Chalk" teams for the first time.

* * *

MY own memories of the Somalian conflict center around the photo of the battered body of an American soldier being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu by a mob of jeering Somalis. I was shocked at the sight. How could the world's sole remaining superpower, symbolized by the soldier, be defeated and humiliated by the starving people of a backward African nation?

My own guess is that this photo, together with the information that 18 American soldiers died and 73 were injured in the course of the operation, was what prompted the Clinton administration to pull out the US forces from Somalia shortly afterwards. It has been described as an "early foreign affairs debacle" of the Clinton administration, one that may have had a telling effect on its handling of later conflicts especially in the Balkans.

To the American public, lulled by such "short and sweet" intrusions into dinky little countries like Panama and Grenada, and by the minimal casualties of Desert Storm, the bloody war toll was simply unacceptable. But to the men who fought the "Battle of Mogadishu," it was a "successful" operation, having met its stated objective. And anytime soldiers are called into action, as one of the film's producers explains, casualties are but to be expected. By soldiers, yes, but not by political leaders and the public.

* * *

"BLACK Hawk Down" makes for intense viewing. There is hardly any letup in tension and violence. But amazingly, for a war movie, it doesn't make caricatures of the "enemy." Nor does it ignore the political context of the Americans' presence and the Somalis' situation.

But as a seasoned, hard-bitten Delta Force man tells the idealistic Eversman: "Once the first bullet flies past your head, politics flies out the window."

And yet, political ironies abound. "Black Hawk Down" director Ridley Scott and producer Jerry Bruckheimer knew they couldn't shoot in Somalia, which to this day remains as poor and anarchic as ever, and chose Morocco as their location. Perhaps people in Somalia are starving just as they did eight years ago; we just don't hear about it anymore. The same Ranger and Delta Special Force regiments that took part in the "Battle of Mogadishu" and which also helped in the filming of crucial scenes in the movie, led the American forces that fought in Afghanistan. They may in fact have only been extending this bloody battle, as Osama bin Laden had boasted that not only did he fund Aidid and supply him with arms, but also that al-Qaida forces had fought in Mogadishu.

Is Basilan yet another staging area of this battle for vindication?

An Aeta called Juan

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(While researching on another topic at the National Archives, I inadvertently came across an almanac published by Ramirez y Giraudier for the year 1880. It includes an interesting anecdote of an encounter between an Aeta and a traveler, which I am reproducing here. I have however taken the liberty of deleting certain descriptive passages not germane to the story.)

SOME months ago, I sailed along the coast of the small and seldom-visited isle of Batan, situated to the south of Luzon with Rapurapu on the east and Cacraray on the west and forming the gulf of Albay in whose extreme occident majestically rises the svelte volcano of Mayon. We were navigating along the channel of Binalbagan that separates that isle from Cacraray and near the isle called Hinanayan, which is inhabited solely by Aetas, when I saw approaching our boat a light *baroto* manned by two men, a woman and a boy. When they neared sufficiently for me to distinguish details, I saw guiding at the stern an old Aeta with a moustache and white goatee, wearing an ancient garrison cap with its corresponding fringe over the temple, a clean blue dress coat but darned and patched with a leather belt from where hung a saber whose brilliant hilt was no doubt the object of the most assiduous and loving care of its master. The shoulders of the old man, robust and well-formed, showed off two voluminous green epaulets that were mementos of the seven-year war. On his wide chest shone a silver cross that the old man caressed with instinctive frequency.

In the prow, a young black with shiny skin and thick and wooly hair that served as a hat energetically rowed. Surrounded by huge clusters of bananas in the center, an old woman sat with the young boy who could not have been more than three years of age.

They came alongside our boat finally, and the old man arose saluting respectfully. With a robust voice, hoarse from age, he said in a few words that aware of our arrival on the isle of Batan, he seized the opportunity to greet us and to offer his services, declaring that he was a Christian and repeating the name of Peñaranda in his discourse. He ended by offering us some bananas from his settlement.

I thanked him for his kind attention, but by now my curiosity was pricked and I could not rest until I knew the story of this decorated black sergeant who was a friend of Peñaranda, the best of the Albay governors.

* * *

Between the years 1830 and 1840, the shores of Luzon and the adjoining isles found themselves continually harassed by surprise raids of Moros from Jolo who sacked towns and kidnapped men and young women, leaving only tears and desolation behind. It was customary of these pirates to use the Binalbagan channel for reasons of security for their small boats. On the small isle cited earlier, they replenished their supplies. The Aetas would flee at the sight of the vintas, terrified at the idea of being enslaved.

In that small settlement, a young man began to distinguish himself with his intelligence, his bravery and his Herculean strength, and it did not take long before he became the chief. He proposed to his obedient subjects a defense against the first Joloan expedition that presented itself. He organized his army, equipping them with arrows, lances and shields.

In a short while, the enemy arrived, but barely had they settled for the night when they were attacked by the Aetas, led by their brave chief. The Moros were surprised by the sudden attack and fled, but not without leaving behind some of their dead.

The authorities soon heard of the glorious offensive taken by the valiant Aetas and sent them abundant supplies, better arms and a small boat so that in the future they would not only defend but could attack and pursue the pirates.

They did not have to wait more than a few months when the Moros, in greater number, better equipped and out for vengeance, arrived. With hideous screams designed to frighten the Aetas, the Moros disembarked led by their chief. A rain of poison arrows greeted them and cooled their ardor somewhat. The Aetas then hurled themselves against the Moros with such rapidity and ferocity that in a few minutes the skirmish was converted into a horrible carnage.

The valiant leader, his saber in one hand and his shield in the other, attacked and defended like a tiger. He neither struck in vain nor allowed himself to be wounded by the pirates who, when they saw his agility and strength, attacked him in greater number. His subjects, inspired by his example, fought much harder, and combat ended with the total defeat of the Moros.

The valiant chief, eager to report to his protector Governor Peñaranda, the glories of the encounter and to bring him proof of their victory, cut off the ears of the enemy corpses, threaded them with a cord of abaca and brought that rosary, measuring a meter and a half, to the capital.

He presented himself in his battle gear, which was no more than a *bahag*, and his cord of ears, followed by a curious throng of people. The governor received him enthusiastically, crowned him with attention, presented him as a model of valor to the heads of the surrounding towns, conferred on him the title of *Comisario Juan de Hinanayan*, authorized him to use the uniform of the garrison and finally invited him to be baptized. Juan answered that not only he but all his people were ready on condition that they be absolved from paying tribute since their resources were meager.

Juan ruled the settlement for many years, loved and respected by Christians and feared by the Moros.

Pastoral letters started it all

YOUNGBLOOD

Zandro G. Rapadas

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THE NATION is commemorating the anniversary of People Power II at Edsa. In the last few days, television stations have been airing specials and documentaries, trying to recapture the events and images that led to those fateful days in January last year.

Who would forget those days? The whole nation saw how Joseph Estrada, the most popularly elected Philippine president, got entangled in one scandal after another, the most damaging of which was his alleged involvement in the *jueteng* payola. Thanks to the exposé of his old friend, then Gov. Chavit Singson, the floodgates were opened to a series of mass protests calling for Estrada's resignation, leading to his infamous impeachment trial. And who would forget those 11 senators who blocked the nation's quest for the truth by voting to keep sealed an envelope containing bank documents linking Estrada to huge secret accounts?

Yes, we were all part of it, learned or not, rich or poor. We chose to be involved. As Makati Business Club executive director Bill Luz said, Edsa Dos was neither whimsical nor accidental, we just had to do it.

I think that more than anything else, it was courage and our deep faith in God that turned it into a success. My own involvement in the events could not have been inspired by anything else but faith. It was something I never could have thought of.

Shortly before lunch on Oct. 11, 2000, I received a phone call from our media director in the Archdiocese of Manila, Fr. Lito Jopson. He told me that the Presbyteral Council led by Jaime Cardinal Sin had just issued a pastoral letter urging President Estrada to resign. Days earlier, Singson had exposed the *jueteng* scandal, the Senate hearings had begun and public outrage was starting to simmer, but I never imagined that such a strong statement condemning the Estrada administration would come from the Church sector. Perhaps I should have studied history harder.

Father Jopson instructed me to write a press release right away. Before long, the staff members of the Archdiocesan Office of Communications (AOC) was burning the lines, faxing the statement and begging the media to give the story the importance it deserved. However, no interviews were given by Church officials, even though reporters and correspondents were knocking at our doors. The decision had been made to let the pastoral letter speak for itself.

At around 4 p.m., just when I thought our task was done, Father Jopson was on the phone again. He said the pastoral letter had to be published in full in a widely circulated newspaper the next day "to preserve the completeness of the document."

Knowing there was little time left before the deadline, I pleaded that we be given ad space with Celine Madamba, corporate relations manager of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. She referred me to Kenny Nuyda, the advertising manager. Kenny told me regretfully that no ad space was available and that the paper had stopped accepting ads for the next day's issue. We were disappointed.

But by some miracle, just minutes after we talked, Kenny was on the line telling me to send the ad materials quickly. Three-fourths of a page in the paper's main section was being reserved for it!

I tried to send the materials through e-mail but to no avail. Their system was down. After several failed attempts, I decided to deliver the materials personally.

On my way to the INQUIRER, I realized that what I was carrying was a "bombshell." The story was making the headline in all the evening newscasts that night, even eclipsing the testimony of Singson at the Senate on the same day.

I was anxious to know the reactions the pastoral letter would get from various sectors. I could feel even then that an important chapter of Philippine history was being written.

I reached the INQUIRER at 8 p.m. and went straight to the production department. There, I worked with Vladi Cuya on the placement of the pastoral letter in the newspaper. In almost no time at all, the layout was done.

That pastoral letter of the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Manila dated Oct. 11, 2000 stated that Estrada had lost his moral ascendancy to govern and strongly urged him to resign. It was published in the main section of the INQUIRER the following day, Oct. 12. It was the very first call for Estrada's resignation by any sector of Philippine society, and it was done with boldness and intensity. It precipitated an avalanche of other "Erap-Resign" statements from various groups and institutions that helped drive Estrada out of Malacañang Palace eventually.

On Jan. 12, 2001, the Presbyteral Council issued another statement, this time urging the public to remain vigilant and "keep up the good fight." It was another forthright statement emphasizing vigilance and calling for prayers for moral recovery, but it also implied the readiness of the Church to summon the faithful once more to Edsa, if necessary. True enough, this was how the news stories came out the following day. Undoubtedly, this set the stage for another people power.

I believe it was providential. These pastoral letters and the way the media handled them confirmed for the Filipino people that it was indeed time for another people power uprising. For wasn't it Jaime Cardinal Sin who had sounded the same call in 1986?

So on that fateful night of Jan. 16, 2001, after the 11 senators voted against opening the second envelope, our people decided spontaneously to march to the Edsa Shrine. Before long, the entire nation was united in demanding the restoration of truth, justice and morality in government. Each of us has his own little story to tell about our contribution to people power. But what is most important is that we all made it work.

Kaya natin kasi matagal na tayong mga bayani.

Zandro G. Rapadas, 26, is a freelance journalist.

THEY SAID

RP's edge

"Filipinos have a good competitive edge because we can speak good English and we are computer literate."

—Labor attaché Helen Custodio of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Washington, D.C. assuring Filipinos will get jobs in the United States despite the economic downturn

Controversial decision

"If they do not want to hear the additional witnesses, that would be the conclusion of the people."

—Senate minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. assailing the decision of ethics committee chair Sen. Francis Pangilinan to release a report clearing Sen. Renato Cayetano of wrongdoing in the Best World Resources stock purchase controversy

Money laundering centers

"It is not the Philippines but the United States and Switzerland which are the most notorious money laundering centers. This is a historical fact."

—Sen. Blas Ople on the Financial Action Task Force's demands for amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Making our country whole again

A YEAR after Edsa II, we pause and pray for the grace to see and understand our beloved country. A year after 11 of our countrymen voted against the opening of the second envelope containing vital evidence in President Estrada's impeachment case, we ask if truth has finally been set free to enable our justice system to function with efficiency and dispatch. A year after peace talks between the government and the various groups that are at war ground to a frustrating halt, the war in Mindanao has degenerated with more groups joining the war. While the fundamental issues of poverty and peace have been constantly raised, not much has really changed, with the affected sectors growing more and more impatient and desperate. While we do not expect miracles of our government, we do expect consistency and genuine effort to ease the country's suffering.

Our badly fragmented country, like so many scattered shards of pottery, remains an archaeological, cultural, moral and spiritual puzzle crying to be made whole again. Who will make this happen? How will they go about it? When will the country finally enjoy wholeness, unity and peace? These are questions which surely no one individual, no one group, no one party, religion or region can adequately and completely answer.

Surely, Edsa was not one group's, much less one individual's personal agenda. Edsa may have been imperfect and incomplete but it was not selfish and conceited. There was something there that taught individuals and groups respect, gentleness, generosity, cooperation and unity such as those experienced by early Filipinos.

Whatever happened after Edsa I, II and III makes us look like "sheep without a shepherd." We all ask questions like, Who will lead us? Gloria? Jaime Cardinal Sin? The Pope? The various ideological groups from the NatDems to the SocDems, the LibDems or all of dems? The Iglesia ni Cristo? Mike Velarde? PMAP? PCA? Copa? Kompil? RAM? YOU? The PNP? The AFP? MILF? Nur Misuari? The Abu Sayyaf? George Bush? The CIA?

Don't our leaders look like the "blind leading the blind" when they tended to be too sure and dogmatic or too paranoid or wishy-washy? When they surrender to seemingly overwhelming crises? The fact remains, even the best leader cannot do it alone!

There is truly and urgently a need for "Salubungan" instead of "Salungatan" There is need for "Tulungan" instead of "Sabwatan." There is need for "Dasalan" instead of "Sigawan." There is truly and urgently a need for "Bayanihan," cooperation, unity and collective action beyond selfish personal gain.

Today we invite everyone to rebuild, to remold our fractured and fragmented country as a potter would clay. Let us bend down, touch the ground, scoop our handful of earth and contribute to the remaking of the Motherland.—**FR. ROBERTO P. REYES, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

Bill on dual citizenship clarified

RAUL J. Palabrica, in his piece last Jan. 13 titled "Doubts about dual citizenship," raised some interesting observations about my proposal to grant dual citizenship to natural-born Filipinos who have acquired foreign citizenship. As the author of Senate Bill No. 1354 ("An act providing for the retention of citizenship by Philippine citizens who acquire foreign citizenship, amending for the purpose Commonwealth Act No. 63, as amended, and for other purposes"), allow me to clarify some of these concerns.

Palabrica contends that it is wrong for the bill to assume that "expatriate Filipinos take the oath of allegiance to their new countries for financial or personal considerations only" and that this "assumption disregards the possibility, and fact, that many of these Filipinos made the pledge with the honest and sincere desire to be true citizens of those countries." It is my belief that our laws should take cognizance of the fact that the majority of Filipinos who migrated abroad did so for better opportunities for themselves, their families and relatives. I firmly believe that those who became citizens of their adopted country have done so mainly for economic reasons, or to broaden their career opportunities, or maximize their social security and protection. There is no doubt that the vast majority of our erstwhile countrymen remain Filipinos in heart and mind.

If it is true that some Filipinos migrate to other countries because they find no hope or future in the Philippines and "would gladly give an arm and a leg to be citizens of other countries," I do not believe that they represent the majority of our countrymen abroad. In fact, my office has received hundreds of letters from Filipinos abroad supporting and pushing for the immediate passage of SB 1354.

It must be stressed that the bill specifically allows a Filipino who becomes a citizen of a foreign country to choose to renounce his Philippine citizenship if he wishes to do so.

Palabrica also raised the issue of civic or military service for dual citizens. Section 3 of the bill provides that those who serve in the armed forces of the country of which they are naturalized citizens or those who become candidates or who were elected to any public office in the country of which they are naturalized citizens shall lose their Philippine citizenship.

On the matter of income tax, it is true that under our existing laws, money earned by Filipinos outside the country is not subject to income tax. Only income derived within the Philippines is taxable, whether it was incurred by a Filipino citizen or a foreigner. But it is wrong to say that the "financial burden of making available the country's facilities and other infrastructure to the Filipino-foreigner, including whatever government services he may avail of, will be shouldered by the locally based Filipinos who faithfully pay their taxes." Filipinos abroad who will benefit from SB 1354 will also be made to pay taxes whenever they use the services being given by our government. They are not being exempted from payment of the taxes that the government may rightfully impose on them according to law.

My proposal recognizes that Philippine citizenship acquired by parentage is constitutionally guaranteed and protected, such that natural-born citizens may not be automatically deprived of Philippine citizenship absent any corresponding free, willful and voluntary act on their part to expressly and formally renounce their citizenship before proper Philippine authorities or without the commission of acts patently inconsistent with the retention of citizenship.

I concede that SB 1354 is not a perfect proposal. The two bills on dual citizenship will still undergo thorough study and debate in Congress. When the bill is finally passed into law, all the concerns pertinent to this important piece of legislation will have been properly addressed.—**FRANKLIN M. DRILON, Senate president, 6th Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Bldg., Financial Center, Pasay City**

LETTERS

Can a former president run again?

SECTION IV, Article 7 of the 1987 Constitution reads: "The President and the Vice President shall be elected by direct vote of the people for a term of six years which shall begin at noon on the 30th day of June next following the day of the election and shall end at noon of the same date six years thereafter. The President shall not be eligible for any reelection."

The eligibility for reelection of a former president is now the subject of commentaries and speculations. And there are two schools of thought. One advocates absolute prohibition, saying the word "any" in that prohibition is absolute, whether immediate or otherwise. The other view holds that the Constitution bans only immediate reelection. It is premised on the ordinary usage and general understanding of the word "reelection" which implies that an incumbent is running for the same office.

Of course, for a clearer understanding of the constitutional provision, resort is made to the discussions of its framers during the time the 1987 Constitution was being drafted. This is an effective way of determining their will and intent.

During those discussions, a constitutional commissioner proposed the inclusion of the word "immediate" and so that the sentence would read in part: "the President shall not be eligible for any immediate reelection." In the final reading and as approved, the word "immediate" was deleted.

Even so, there remains the question of whether one who has served as president can seek another term after an interregnum. It is said that, after an interregnum or hiatus, the former president will not be seeking reelection but election. Surely, if what was intended was an absolute prohibition, a clearer and more precise language would have been adopted. The 1935 Philippine Constitution states it clearly in this wise: "No person shall serve as President for more than eight consecutive years," (Sec. 5, Article VII). Even the US Constitution under Amendment XXII is clear when it ordains that "No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice."

The Supreme Court will certainly not entertain this issue unless it evolves into a justiciable case or controversy, that is, if a former president decides to run and his eligibility is questioned. From the list of former presidents who served since the 1987 Constitution, is there anyone who has the mind to run? Maybe one of them should, if only to clear this confusion and enrich jurisprudence. Otherwise, this issue will remain unresolved or in limbo.—**RAUL I. GOCO, 5 Tenth St., New Manila, Quezon City**

HUDCC needs all the help it can get

AFTER A FULL year in office, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo now stands in judgment before the nation and reaping more criticisms than accolades. Perhaps this was to be expected. After all, she herself raised the people's expectations with her State of the Nation Address in July last year which promised so many good things despite glaring symptoms of a prolonged economic slowdown.

COMMENTARY

Anna Marie A. Karaos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

Nobody could have anticipated the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks which sent the whole world into recession, but it is clear to us today that with the poor global economy, there was no way President Macapagal could have fulfilled her promises of jobs, food and houses for the poor in the seven months after she made them.

While it is understandable for many groups who supported her assumption of the presidency to feel disgruntled, there is no politically viable alternative to her right now. The constituency pushing for a change of leadership at this time is small and the citizenry is definitely in no mood to support a military-backed takeover. Many of us may have our own reasons for feeling dissatisfied with the President, but the wisest course seems to be to let her finish her term and let the 2004 elections decide who should be the next president.

It is foolish to try to extract from the President a promise not to run in 2004. If we don't like her, we just don't vote for her. After the coup rumors die down and the pro-Estrada forces finish with their own rallies, let us for our own sake buckle down to work.

What could be a good development, at least in the area of housing, is the recent signing of an agreement between Lehman Brothers and the Philippine government to set up a $1-billion "Philippine Recovery Fund." The scheme would involve the acquisition of nonperforming loans (NPLs) of banks and the securitization of performing mortgages and real estate assets. It is estimated that the country's financial system is saddled with P270 billion in NPLs and P150 billion in foreclosed real estate assets. Aside from augmenting the domestic capital market, the resulting capital infusion is reportedly intended to finance mass housing projects.

With the wonderful opportunity being presented by the $1-billion Philippine Recovery Fund, this is the best time for the housing sector to get its act together. There was a "Housing Summit" held last October, and many proposals presented and agreed upon during the summit are awaiting action. Now that resources are being made available for housing, we ought to do some serious prioritizing and strategizing on those proposals.

One of the proposals pertains to government lands recently proclaimed by the President as open for disposition to their urban-poor occupants. Over 100,000 families nationwide are expected to benefit from this. But before the benefits are realized, first the titling process must proceed, a financing program set up and site development must take place. These are activities that require resources.

When the government talks about mass housing, we hope it does not only mean constructing housing units but also supporting all kinds of initiatives and activities that would give poor people security of housing tenure, which is the real objective. The President made a bold move in the right direction by issuing those presidential proclamations. She must build on that initiative and see the process through to its completion now that resources are available.

There is also the question of what the role of the private sector, or the private developers and NGOs, would be in all this. I have heard some housing developers express their apprehension, not necessarily in connection with the Philippine Recovery Fund but with the government's handling of the housing problem in general, that the government might be thinking of making the National Housing Authority act as the sole producer of low-cost housing. The apprehension may not be based on any solid information or any pronouncement made by Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chair Michael Defensor. But the fact that there has not been a serious discussion with the different stakeholders on how the government plans to approach the production of mass housing, especially now that funds are forthcoming, is fueling much of this apprehension.

If the government wants to involve the developers and NGOs, the HUDCC must try harder to unclog the home financing windows that should be providing development loans and mortgage financing to developers and home buyers. This needs to be done fast for the Community Mortgage Program (CMP), which caters to the urban poor, as well as to the Multi-Window Lending program catering to salaried workers.

NGOs assisting communities in accessing the CMP believe that the CMP's performance will not improve unless institutional reforms are done within the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC), the agency administering the program. "Institutional reforms" is a big and vague term, but the NGOs claim they have presented concrete recommendations to the HUDCC on what these reforms should be. Hopefully we will see some real action taken on these proposals soon.

Certainly there is no shortage of good ideas, energy and goodwill among the different stakeholders in the housing sector. There is great willingness to cooperate with the government on the part of the NGOs, private developers and urban poor communities. But the key is for the HUDCC to make the process of planning its housing interventions as inclusive and transparent as possible, harnessing the capacities of as many actors as there are willing to be involved. The housing problem is a gargantuan one, and the HUDCC definitely needs all the help it can get.

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ADDENDUM NO. 1 FOR AD NO. PD-2001-66

TO : ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS

SUBJECT : A. SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE PARCELLARY MAPPING, RELOCATION AND SUBDIVISION SURVEY OF LOTS AFFECTED BY ABAGA-KIRAHON 230KV T/L PROJECT

B. SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE PARCELLARY MAPPING SURVEY OF LOTS AFFECTED BY THE AURORA-DIPOLOG 138KV T/L PROJECT

PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT THE BID OPENING OF THE ELIGIBILITY AND TECHNICAL PROPOSAL (1st AND 2nd ENVELOPE) FOR THE ABOVE SUBJECT UNDERTAKING WHICH IS SCHEDULED ON **FEBRUARY 4, 2002** IS HEREBY RESCHEDULED ON **FEBRUARY 11, 2002** AT THE SAME TIME AND VENUE.

ALL OTHER SPECIFICATIONS SHALL REMAIN THE SAME. PLEASE BE GUIDED ACCORDINGLY.

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL NO. **921-2574.**

PBAC SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE PARCELLARY MAPPING, RELOCATION AND SUBDIVISION SURVEY OF LOTS FOR T/L PROJECTS.
NPC-OBC (Head Office), Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - Jan 19 2002)

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
SLT-2002-02A

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: FEBRUARY 04, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A1	2 UNITS	CHAIRS, JR. EXECUTIVE	3PTG01-056
A2	1 LOT	CHAIRS, JR. EXECUTIVE & STEEL CABINET	3PTG01-052
A3	8 PCS	CHAIRS, JR. EXECUTIVE	3OPO02-002
A4	1 LOT	REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF POWER SUPPLY AND DISPLAY OF DELL MONITOR	3PTG02-003
A5	1 LOT	MAGNETIC CONTACTOR & CIRCUIT BREAKER	3NCS01-048
		DATE OF BIDDING: FEBRUARY 05, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B1	2 SETS	DIGITAL FAULT MEASUREMENT SYSTEM	3PTG01-077
B2	1 UNIT	ELECTRIC MOTOR	3NCS01-076
B3	1 LOT	POWER SUPPLY UNIT, RELAY	3NCS01-105
B4	1 LOT	JOB ORDER: REPLACEMENT/SUPPLY/ INSTALLATION OF METAL SCREEN	3ADM01-225
B5	1 LOT	CIRCUIT BREAKER, MAGNETIC CONTACTOR, RELAY, ETC.	3NCS01-068
		DATE OF BIDDING: FEBRUARY 06, 2002; 2:00 PM	
C1	13 SETS	DISCONNECT SWITCH	3MAK01-376
C2	1 LOT	LEASED LINE CONNECTION	3IMD01-004
C3	525,000 KG	CAUSTIC SODA	3MAK02-004

Schedules C1-C3 bidding shall be handled by GENCO-6 Materials Management Section. Bid documents can be obtained from their office at San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **January 22, 2002**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **January 29, 2002** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock p.m. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) **R.D. RAMAS**
Manager, Administration
Transco South

(PDI – Jan. 19, 2002)

What are telecom firms doing about cell-phone thefts?

IT has been reported that cell-phone snatching has become rampant in Metro Manila. The police recorded 522 cases nationwide as of mid-2001. And the figures could be much higher since most victims do not bother to report the thefts.

While pondering on this alarming figure, I cannot help but urge that we find out if there has been any action taken by the telecom industry to solve this growing national problem. Was there any positive action taken by the industry or by individual carriers to help check cell-phone thievery? I asked an executive of a major company and he cited a Philippine National Police advisory urging people not to flaunt their units in public.

Is that all? And why do private firms hide behind the protective mantle of the police when they can do much more to solve this problem? Why can't they disconnect the line, if it has been proven by the owner that his unit was stolen?

Apparently telecom firms think of nothing but business. After all, those who lose their units (who are moneyed individuals anyway) will eventually buy replacements and they too will continue to contribute to the carrier's profitability. In other words, more cell-phone thefts will be good for the industry.

All of them have dirty hands. Some have died for refusing to hand over their units to the thieves.

My question is simple: What can the carriers do to solve this problem? Of course, this effort needs the cooperation of all telecom carriers both major and minor players. One single carrier acting alone cannot do this, unless the National Telecommunications Commission puts up a proactive and firm stance.

The issue is "social and moral responsibility," not administrative, legal, or technical concerns. In sum my point is caught in that saying "*Kung gusto may paraan, kung ayaw may dahilan.*"—**REYLITO A.H. ELBO, Deming Management Systems, 6th Floor, LV Locsin Bldg., Ayala Avenue, 1226 Makati City**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Israel jets hit Palestinian headquarters

TULKARM, West Bank—Israeli aircraft attacked a Palestinian security headquarters in the West Bank early on Friday, killing at least one person, in retaliation for a deadly Palestinian shooting in an Israeli banquet hall.

Witnesses in the West Bank city of Tulkarm said F-16 warplanes fired missiles at the security compound. An Israeli military spokesperson said aircraft had carried out the attack before daybreak but he did not specify the type.

One policeman was killed and at least 40 people were wounded, Palestinian hospital officials said.

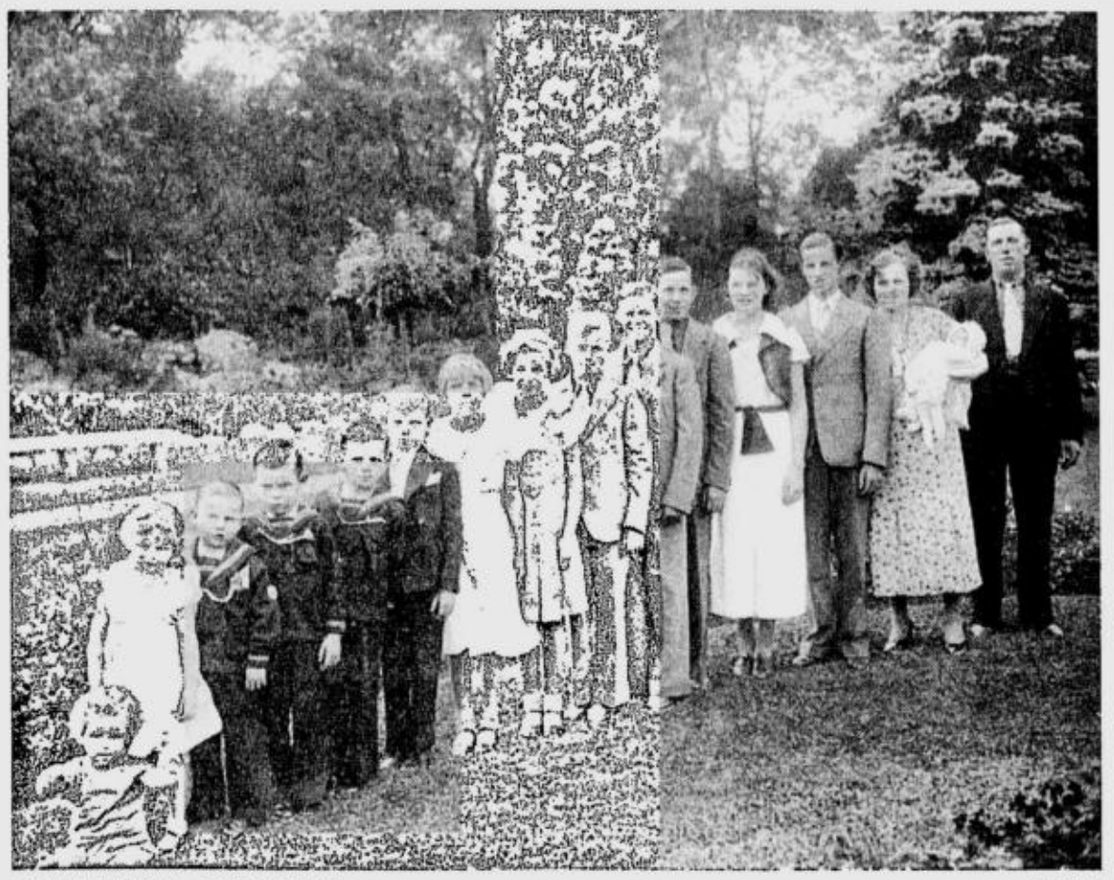
In the northern Israeli city of Hadera on Thursday, a Palestinian gunman burst into a packed banquet hall and sprayed revelers, mainly Russian-speaking immigrants, with automatic gunfire, killing six people before police shot him dead.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, attached to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, said it carried out the attack to avenge the killing of one of its leaders on Monday.

"In response to recent terrorist attacks and the one last night in Hadera, carried out by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, the military attacked the Palestinian security headquarters in Tulkarm," the military spokesperson said.

Israel Radio and Palestinian security officials said the Israeli Army deployed forces near Arafat's headquarters in the Israeli-encircled City of Ramallah in the West Bank early on Friday. The army declined comment.

Israel has kept Arafat confined to Ramallah since December, after a series of Palestinian attacks against Israelis, but has said it has no intention of toppling or harming him. *Reuters*



BIG FAMILY, BIG PRIZE REUTERS

Millionaire lawyer Charles Vance Miller, a prankster in real life, caused a sensation in 1926 when his will bequeathed C$1 million to the Toronto woman who had the most children in a ten-year period, setting off the "Great Stork Derby." Pictured are Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hollis Timleck (right), standing with their 14 children at the English Gardens in Exhibition Park Oct. 5, 1936. Ten of the children were eligible under the rules of the contest. They were one of four winning families that claimed the prize.

UN pleads for donors to Kabul

KABUL—Despite assurances of long-term assistance from the international community, reiterated by US Secretary of State Colin Powell, no checks have been cut to help the cash-strapped Afghan government out of its financial hole, the United Nations complained.

While US President George W. Bush Thursday welcomed a UN decision a day earlier to extend sanctions against the Taliban and al-Qaida, the international body urged Washington and the rest of the world to take out their checkbooks to pull Afghanistan from the brink of imminent financial ruin.

"It is very disappointing," said Ahmed Fawzi, spokesperson for UN special envoy to Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi, told a media conference here. "Reassurance is good. Cash is better."

Powell, in a brief visit to the Afghan capital, said Washington would contribute "significantly" to rebuilding Afghanistan at a donors' conference he will attend from Monday in Tokyo, but the country, financially under siege after decades of war, needs money now, government officials said, not in six months.

"We will be with you in this current crisis and in the future," said Powell, the highest-ranking US official to visit Afghanistan since his predecessor Henry Kissinger in 1976. *AFP*

Enron fires Andersen as auditor

WASHINGTON—The White House denied on Thursday a senior Democrat's allegations that its 2001 energy plan was crafted to benefit Enron Corp., as auditor Andersen confirmed its executives discussed debt kept off the energy trading giant's books long before the deals triggered its collapse.

Houston-based Enron fired Andersen as its auditor, blaming it for destroying Enron documents government investigators were seeking for a probe into the energy trader's aggressive and murky bookkeeping, while the top US securities regulator proposed tougher accounting oversight.

But Andersen denied that a memo about off-book debt meant the accounting firm knew about any improprieties, despite concerns over whether the auditor should have questioned Enron's finances further, or whether an Enron consulting contract that paid it $1 million a week in 2000 kept the accounting firm mum.

The White House on Thursday tried to distance itself from the widening scandal, denying its energy plan had been crafted to benefit Enron, President George W. Bush's biggest political patron. A White House spokesperson called a senior Democrat's report on the matter a "waste of taxpayers' money."

The White House also rebuffed repeated calls for the release of information about contacts between Vice President Dick Cheney's energy task force and energy companies, including Enron.

In response to the Andersen-Enron debacle, Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Harvey Pitt called for a supervisory body with new powers that would eclipse those of the profession's present overseer.

"We initially envision a public body that will be dominated by public members with two primary components—discipline and quality control," Pitt said at an afternoon news conference. "We are at the early stages of this proposal and many details remain to be worked out."

Enron filed for the biggest bankruptcy in US history last month, throwing thousands out of work and leaving investors holding worthless shares in the once giant energy trader.

Pitt said he did not envision a new role for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), a trade group that previously governed the profession on its own, conducting reviews and disciplining accounting firms. *Reuters*

Argentina's top banker quits amid new protests

BUENOS AIRES—Argentina's top banker resigned as building anger over tight banking curbs pushed thousands of Argentines into renewed street protests and the value of the peso slumped to new lows.

Hundreds of small businessmen shouted insults and banged drums Thursday in front of banks in Buenos Aires, demanding that government rules barring people from withdrawing their savings be overturned.

Banks took out full-page ads in newspapers to blame the government for financial turmoil that has left the country with a 6-week-old partial freeze on bank withdrawals, 18-percent unemployment and a sharply weakening currency.

The peso, until two weeks ago paired one-to-one with the US dollar, slid to two pesos to the dollar hours after Central Bank President Roque Maccarone resigned over a dispute with the government involving monetary policy.

Maccarone, a protégé of former Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, had clashed with the government of President Eduardo Duhalde since the peso's devaluation on Jan. 6, local reports said. The dispute reportedly pitted Maccarone against Economic Minister Remes Lenicov over ways to preserve the peso's value. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Powell meets Vajpayee

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD—US Secretary of State Colin Powell met Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on Friday, seeking a diplomatic breakthrough to avert war between nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan. Powell, who arrived in India from Islamabad on Thursday, said he would offer ideas on easing the crisis triggered by an attack last month on India's parliament and blamed by New Delhi on Pakistan-based Kashmiri separatists. As Powell held his talks in India, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf told Islamic clerics in Islamabad that he believed there would be no war with India. "I am fully satisfied that, God willing . . . there will be no war," he said. But the soldier-turned-president added that the two armies were still standing "eyeball to eyeball" on the border. *Reuters*

Congo volcano erupts

GISENYI, Rwanda—Around 45 people were killed and hundreds of thousands fled the eastern Congolese town of Goma after a volcano erupted on Thursday, many forced into Rwanda by a lava flow that devastated everything in its path. United Nations officials in Kigali estimated the number of dead at 45, as lava poured down the slopes of Nyiragongo, through the town and into Lake Kivu that straddles the Rwanda-Congo border. Overnight, the horizon was one long stretch of flames and smoke, from time to time broken as fuel stations caught fire with a bang. Earth tremors shook the town every half an hour. *Reuters*

US to seize 6 Arabs

WASHINGTON/SARAJEVO, Bosnia—The United States has vowed its troops will take control of six Arabs who had been detained in Bosnia on suspicion of involvement in terrorism but whose release was ordered by a court on Thursday. "We intend to take custody as they are released individually," a US defense official, who asked not to be identified, said in Washington. A Bosnian court on Thursday ordered the release of the six, five Algerians and a Yemeni, detained by local police in October on suspicion of involvement in international terrorism and links to the al-Qaida network of fugitive Osama bin Laden. *Reuters*

Spanish writer Cela, 85

MADRID—Nobel literature prize winner Camilo Jose Cela, a giant of the Spanish literary world, died of heart failure in a Madrid clinic on Thursday, the clinic said. Cela, who was 85 and had used a pacemaker for several years, had been taken to a clinic in Madrid a few days earlier complaining of breathing difficulties. Tributes poured in from fellow writers and politicians for the outspoken and irreverent Cela, who crowned a long and prolific career by winning the Nobel prize in 1989. Portuguese writer Jose Saramago, the 1998 Nobel literature winner, said Cela was one of the great writers of the 20th century and held one of the most important positions in Spanish literature. His books "express a depth of feeling and, above all, his roots deep in (Spanish) conflicts," he said by telephone from his home in Spain's Canary Islands. Cela was best known for his 1942 novel "The Family of Pascual Duarte"—about a peasant unable to suppress a killer's instinct instilled in him by a hostile environment. *Reuters*

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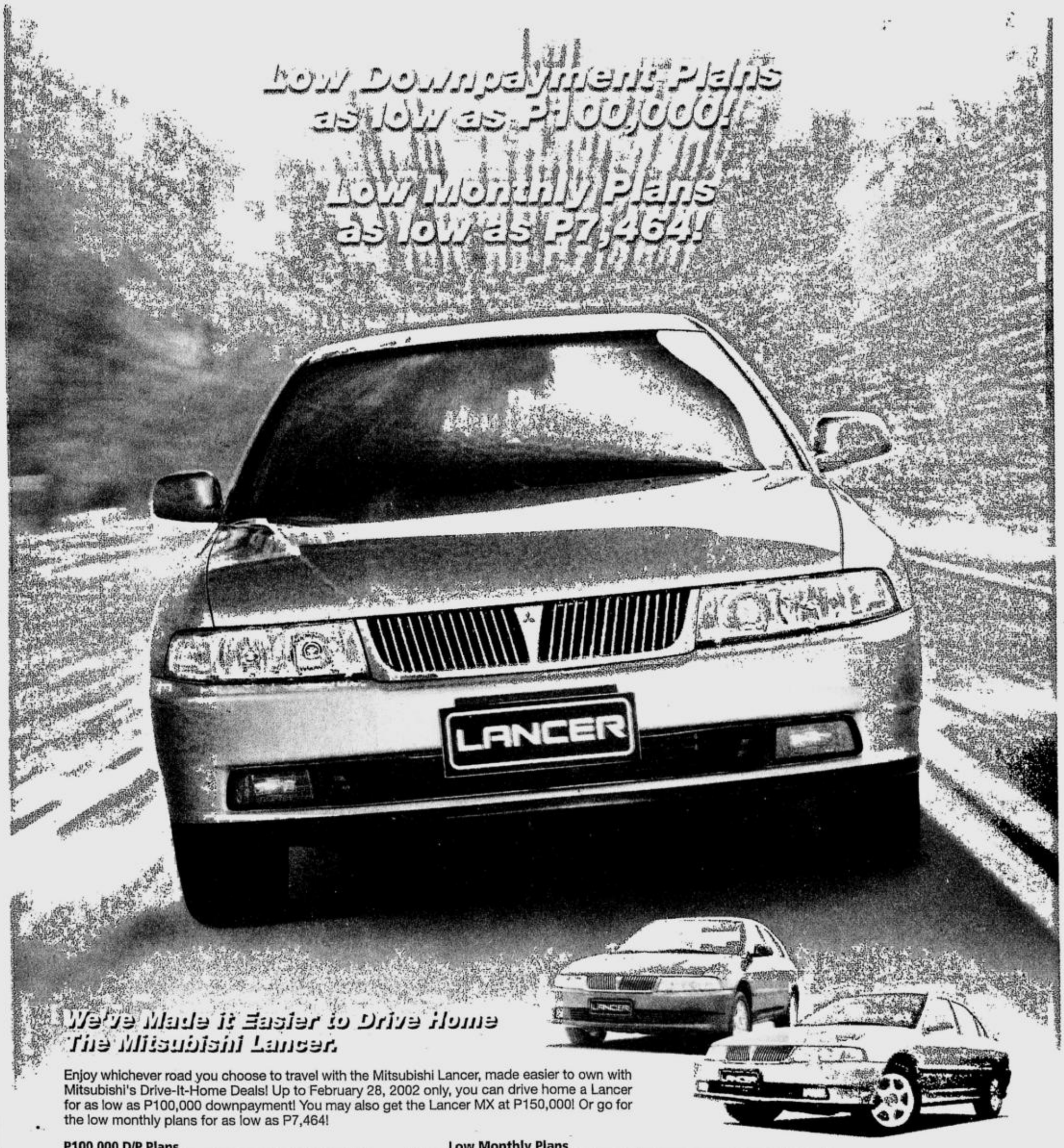

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GLS M/T	680,000		49,462	34,148	27,168	19,424	15,737	13,775
GLS A/T	710,000		51,644	35,654	28,367	*20,281	16,431	14,383

P150,000 D/P Plans

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GLS M/T	680,000	340,000	30,139	20,807	16,563	11,841	9,594	8,398
GLS A/T	710,000	355,000	31,468	21,725	17,293	12,364	10,017	8,768
MX	790,000	395,000	35,014	24,173	19,242	13,757	11,145	9,756

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Probe US Korea War 'crimes,' Pyongyang urges UN

UNITED NATIONS—North Korea accused US soldiers Wednesday of committing more atrocities during the Korean War than Adolf Hitler did in World War II and called for a UN investigation because the Americans were fighting under the UN flag.

In a letter to the UN Security Council, North Korea's UN Ambassador Pak Gil Yon urged the United Nations to "take measures to prevent the recurrence of such crimes against humanity."

"The United Nations will have to adjust its mistaken past by retrieving its flag and name from the United States troops in South Korea as early as possible and recover its credibility," he said.

Massacres

For years, North Korea has claimed the US forces committed massacres during the 1950-53 war. But it stepped up its rhetorical campaign ahead of the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the war in June 2000.

Washington led the UN forces that fought with South Korea against North Korean invaders, who were backed by China and the former Soviet Union.

Historians say North Korean troops committed far more atrocities, summarily executing US prisoners of war and slaughtering large numbers of South Korean civilians. US officials have dismissed most of the North Korean claims as propaganda.

The US Mission to the United Nations and the US State Department had no immediate comment on Pak's letter. Neither did the Security Council.

UN spokesperson Fred Eckhard said "it was member states who put the UN flag and the UN name on the unified Korean command. It's not been a matter for the secretary general."

Atrocities

The North Korean ambassador said the alleged "atrocities" by US troops during the Korean War "exceed by far the crimes against humanity committed by Hitler of Germany and Tojo of Japan during the Second World War." Japan's wartime Prime Minister Hideki Tojo was executed for war crimes.

In March 2000, the communist state's Foreign Ministry accused US troops of massacring more than a million North Korean civilians and prisoners of war during the war. It said the United States must compensate North Korea and apologize, and it demanded that the United Nations open a tribunal for US war criminals.

Pak's letter claims US troops killed 35,383 innocent civilians during the two months it occupied Sinchon County, 96 kilometers south of Pyongyang, in late 1950.

On Nov. 14, 2001, he alleged that the remains of 59 people killed by US forces were unearthed at the foot of a mountain in the county. The remains, in various positions, included separated body parts and skulls that had traces of bullets and fist-size holes "showing that they were hit by a mass of iron or heavy stone," he said. *AP*

ABENSON gives away a new car for the New Year

Grand Raffle Draw: January 26, 2002 at Walter Mart, Sta. Rosa

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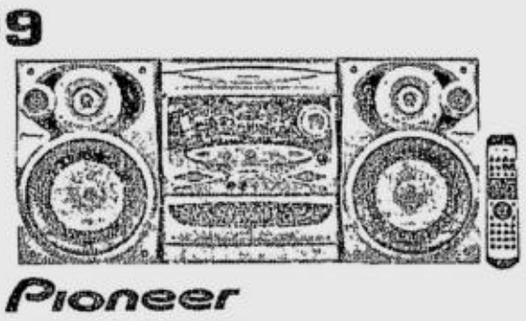

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P13990

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KARAOKE HK-Z290P
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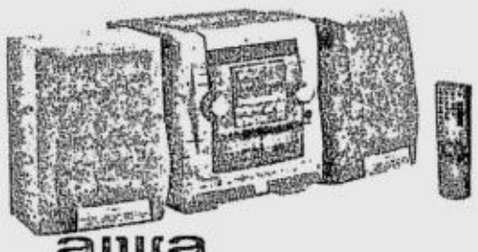
P4778



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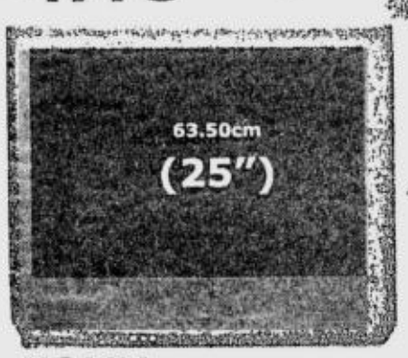

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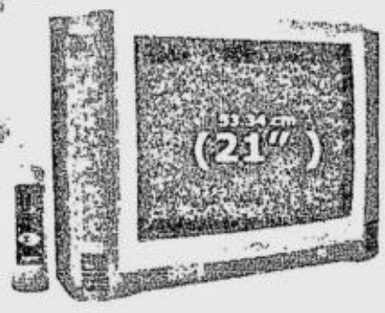

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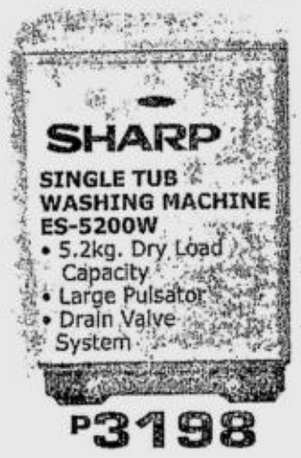

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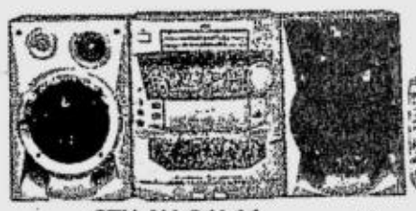

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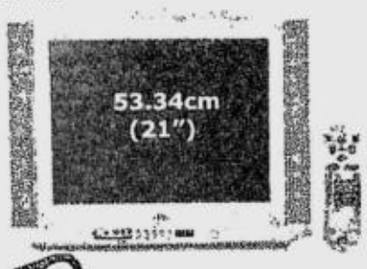

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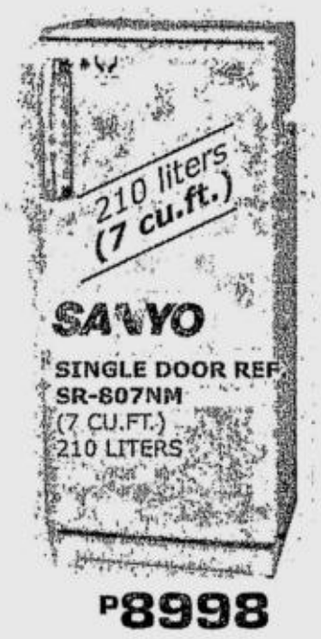
- Spring Cool System

P13795



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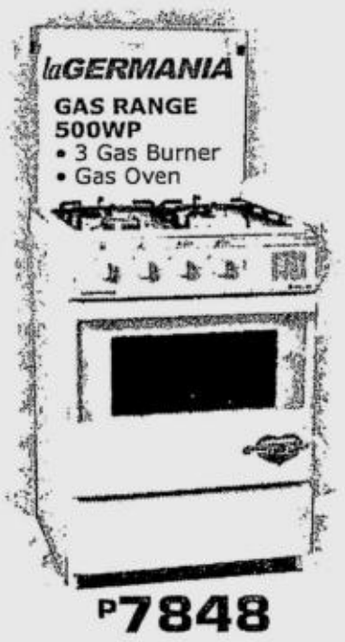

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- Gas Oven

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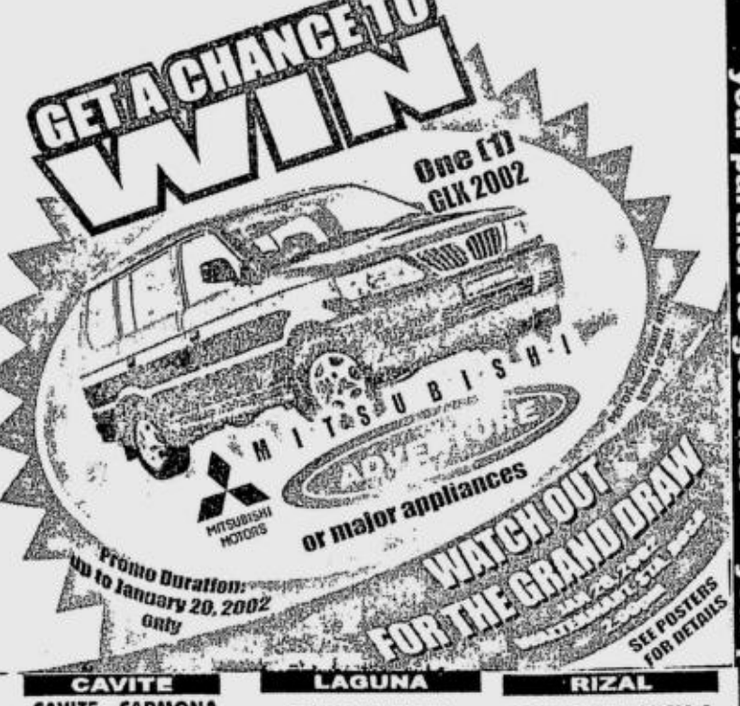

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 21° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 20°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/01/19/02

2 top PNP officers tagged as kidnap gang protectors

BY DENNIS JAY C. SANTOS
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Three suspects in the abduction of a Davao businessman's daughter early this month, have tagged a police superintendent and another officer as members of the Pentagon kidnap gang.

But Supt. Eduardo Matillano, police director for Southern Mindanao, refused to comment on the allegations made by the suspects, Kalidin Sandigan, Salim Mama and Grace Dulay.

Matillano said they have started "inviting" the police officers.

In their affidavits, the confessed Pentagon members said the two police officers were protecting the Pentagon.

They claimed that the officers would from time to time provide information about police operations against the group.

Sandigan, alleged leader of the group that snatched Ma. Cecilio Bonifacio and Canadian Pierre Belanger, said the superintendent is a relative of Faisal Marohombsar, one of the top leaders of the Pentagon.

He said it was the superintendent who told him in a safe house in Tacurong City to continue with their kidnapping operations in Southern Mindanao.

He said he even told the official about his fears of staging a kidnapping operation in Davao City because of Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who is known for his non-conventional way of dealing with crimes.

Duterte said it was important that more evidence would be gathered to pin down the police officers.

"*Wala pang matibay na ebidensya* (There is no strong evidence yet)," he said.

Duterte said the names of the police officials were already submitted to Interior Secretary Jose Lina and PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza.

In Cotabato City, the military said it was still trying to find ways to penetrate the Pentagon's lair in the Liguasan Marsh to rescue a woman doctor abducted by the group on Tuesday night.

Thousands of physicians, nurses and medical students yesterday held rallies in at least four urban centers of South-Central Mindanao to protest the abduction of Dr. Rosemarie Agustin.

Dr. Condrado Aguila, spokesperson of the Cotabato City Medical Society, said the rallies were held in the cities of General Santos, Kidapawan, Koronadal and Tacurong, and in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato, and South Cotabato.

In Cotabato City, doctors and health workers displayed placards and streamers urging authorities to act against kidnappings. They marched from the government-owned Cotabato Regional and Medical Center to the city plaza.

Five Pentagon members abducted Agustin, owner of the Cotabato Medical Specialist Hospital, near her house on Tuesday night.

"This crusade is our way of condemning kidnapping and other forms of violence in our midst," Aguila said.

Shortly after her disappearance, physicians refused to accept non-emergency cases as a sign of protest.

Dr. Abdullah Dumama, city health officer, branded the kidnapping as an attack against "a savior of lives." ***With reports from Ayan Mellejor, Anthony Allada, Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

ROUNDUP

Motorcycle cop dies

SUAL, Pangasinan—A policeman who was set to join the troops for the Edsa II celebrations was killed Thursday when his motorcycle was bumped by a passenger bus here. Police said SPO1 Manuel Abrigo, a member of the Burgos police, was driving his motorcycle in Barangay Paitan here at 3 a.m. Thursday when a Five-Star bus hit him. Abrigo, of Dasol town, was on his way to Lingayen town to join a contingent of Pangasinan policemen assigned to beef up forces at Edsa.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

More flights to Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez has approved more flights to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport to service residents of Central and Northern Luzon. These are the thrice weekly flights of Cebu Pacific Airways plying the Manila, Clark and Cebu routes; daily flights of Seair from Manila to Clark; Manila to Clark to Hong Kong flights of UPS/PEAC; and the chartered flights from Clark to Taipei of International Pacific Airways. Alvarez said the Philippine-Macau air agreement has included the DMIA here as an additional destination.

PDI Central Luzon Desk

4 hurt in grenade blast

PAGADIAN CITY—Four people were seriously hurt when a grenade exploded inside a house in Sta. Maria District here on Thursday night. Supt. Asuri Hawani, city police director, traced the attack to a grudge between the Fuentes and Kirim families. Hawani said the suspect, Jacinto Kirim, was trying to get back at Rufino Fuentes, 54, for barring him from building a house on a vacant lot. Fuentes, who was among those hurt in the explosion, is the caretaker of the lot. The other victims were Fuentes' wife Nita, 57; his son-in-law, Rudy Bayron, 24; and his granddaughter, Maria Fe Mondejar, 13.

Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Lawyer found dead

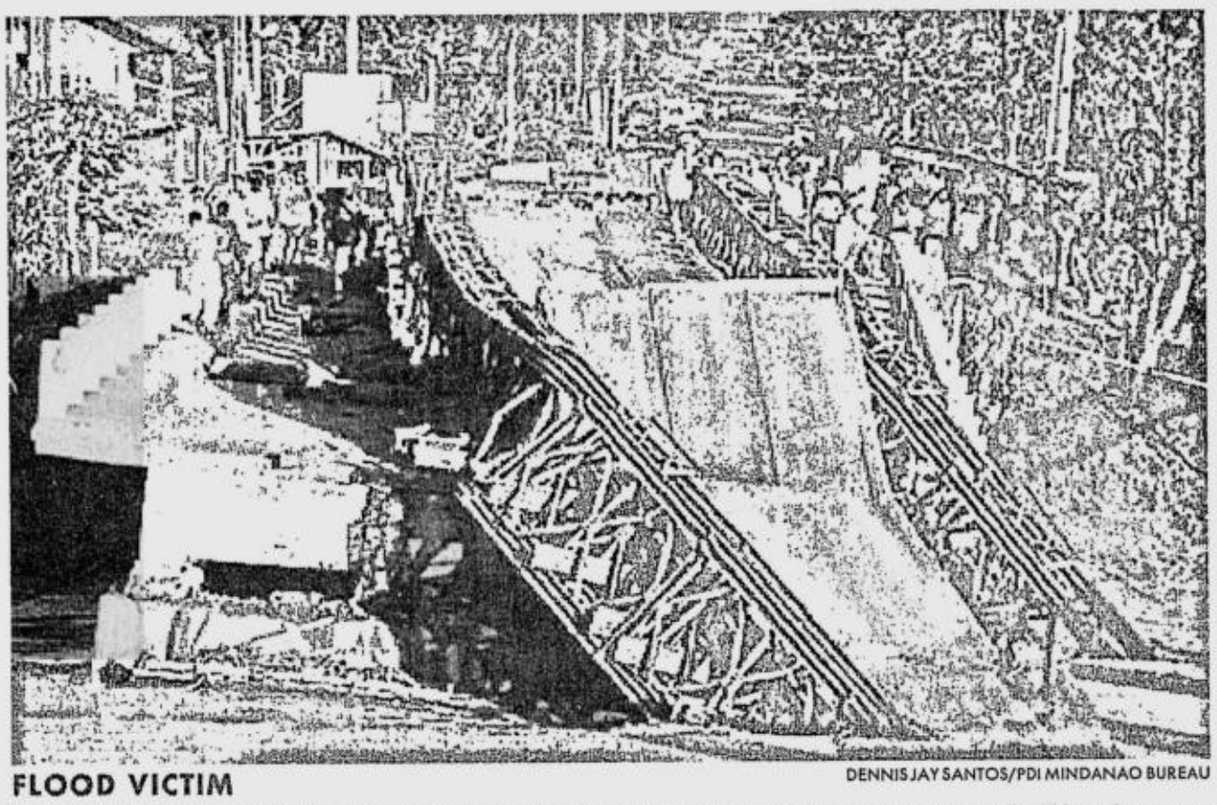
DAVAO CITY—A human rights lawyer was found dead with a stab wound in the chest inside his law office here around 1 p.m. on Thursday. Police found a suicide note near the body of lawyer Florante Garcia. However, Chief Insp. Leonardo Felonia, chief of the San Pedro police station, said he was not discounting the possibility of a foul play. He said that shortly before Garcia's body was found, witnesses saw a man coming out of the office at the Dacudao Building on Washington Street. Felonia said that based on witnesses' accounts, the man was acting suspiciously.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ani suspends 6

DUMAGUETE CITY—Ombudsman Aniano Desierto ordered the six-month suspension of a former councilor and five municipal employees of Tanjay for misconduct after they rigged a bidding in 1997 that resulted in the awarding of a purchase contract for medicines to favored businesses. Ordered suspended were former councilor Ben Pileo, budget officer Cecilia Ananquil, utility worker Dario Miraflor, accountant Onesimo Zerna, treasurer Gregoria Zerna and secretary Sonia Mendoza. Tanjay became a city in January last year. Of the six, only two are around to serve the penalty. Mendoza died in 1998 while Onesimo and Zerna had retired. Pileo returned to private practice as a certified public accountant after his term ended in 1998.

Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau



FLOOD VICTIM DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

The Maa Bridge at the Diversion Road in Davao City was among several infrastructure facilities that were damaged by the recent flooding in the city. Mayor Rodrigo Duterte earlier sought the help of the Department of Public Works and Highways to restore the bridge.

2 frat members tagged in killing

CEBU CITY—Two members of the Alpha Kappa Rho (Akhro) Fraternity were charged with murder yesterday for allegedly killing a member of a rival fraternity.

The charges were filed before the provincial prosecutor's office after a witness tagged Candol Caqete, 25, and Leoni Tapdasan, 26, as the ones who allegedly shot dead Dexter de la Calzada, 23, a member of the Tau Gamma Fraternity.

The suspects were detained at the police station in Minglanilla town, 16 kilometers south of this city.

Police investigation showed that Sela Calzada and another Tau Gamma member, Jacod Velleta, were riding on a motorcycle when they were shot allegedly by the suspects in Upper Calajoan, Minglanilla, at about 5:30 p.m. on Thursday.

De la Calzada was hit in the back. The bullet went through his chest and pierced the back of Velleta, who was driving the motorcycle.

De la Calzada died shortly after he was brought to a hospital in the city. *Debra Jane Magallon, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Rebels attack Floirendo pig farm

DAVAO CITY—Communist rebels attacked a pig farm owned by the family of Davao del Norte Rep. Antonio Floirendo in Panabo City on Wednesday night.

A military report said the New People's Army (NPA) attackers killed one of the farm's caretakers and wounded another.

The report said Edwin Pania, an employee of Nest Farms, was killed while Reneyes Bendio was seriously hurt, after the rebels fired shots at the farm office in Barangay Tibungol.

Col. Eduardo del Rosario, head of the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion said the rebel group was led by a certain Ka Yolly and belonged to the command of Leonardo Pitao.

Pitao, known as Kumander Parago of the NPA Front 53, was earlier arrested for rebellion charges, but freed on bail.

Parago, who led the abduction of Gen. Victor Obillo and Capt. Eduardo Montealto of the Army engineering battalion in 1999, later jumped bail.

Gen. Felipe Berroya, commander of the Army's 701st Infantry Brigade, said Parago had returned to the NPA and had mounted a series of harassment activities against businesses in an effort to collect "revolutionary" taxes.

Berroya said the attack was Parago's way of punishing the family of Floirendo for its refusal to pay taxes to the NPA.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, Southern Mindanao police director, said the NPA had earlier threatened the lawmaker's family.

It was not clear how much the rebels were asking from the Floirendos. *Ayan Mellejor, Anthony Allada and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DENR chief urged to probe wood trader

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Three Central Luzon environment officials urged Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to order an investigation of alleged illegal logging activities of a Chinese businessman in the region.

Businessman Wilson Ng had complained to Alvarez that the three environment officials had allegedly diverted P500,000 worth of seized narra lumber for ousted President Joseph Estrada's Boracay mansion.

Based on the complaint, Gregorio Nisperos, regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Romeo Buenaventura, assistant regional director for operations; and Rolando Suetos, community environment and natural resources officer of Cabanatuan City, were suspended by Alvarez.

But the three officials assailed the "absence of an exhaustive investigation" of Ng's complaint.

In separate interviews on Wednesday, all three officials lamented that they were not given a chance by the DENR special inquiry board to air their side.

The DENR regional legal section confirmed that the board did not ask for files pertaining to the case.

"We were subjected to a trial by publicity. *Bakit kami*? (Why us?) We were just doing our work in going after illegally obtained logs," said Buenaventura.

The board, in an Oct. 18, 2001 report, said at least 3,000.67 board feet or 674 pieces of narra confiscated from Ng's lumberyard in 1998 and brought for custody at Catmon Sales International Corp. were missing.

The haul was part of 4,190 pieces of narra seized from Ng, the report said.

During the raid, Suetos said the DENR team had inventoried in Ng's lumber yard at least 14,027 pieces of narra, 1,853 pieces of banned *almagica* and 2,248 pieces of *dipterocarp* or a total of 159,515 board feet.

Of these, only 53,823 board feet were hauled after the court stopped the seizure pending a hearing on Ng's motion to quash a search warrant.

Alvarez, according to Suetos, might not have been informed that the narra pieces found in Ng's lumber yard were not imported from Malaysia but were illegally cut lumber from the forests of Northern or Southern Luzon.

In a memorandum, Suetos said Ng "failed to present documents/papers to show the legality of his possession of the lumber under search and seizure."

He said the narra logs, in particular, had fresh sap and were not kiln-dried.

Ng, in his complaint, said all his lumber pieces were "properly documented and my possession of these (is) legal." He maintained that the confiscated logs in the 1998 raid were the same as those subjected for seizures in 1990 and 1993.

Suetos said this was not true because those hauled in 1990 and 1993 were flitches, or thickly cut wood, and not lumber or thinly sliced pieces that were taken in 1998.

Buenaventura said the Court of Appeals second division on Oct. 30 last year found valid the DENR's search warrant on Ng.

Nisperos, on the other hand, urged Alvarez to ask the board to instead investigate Catmon under whose custody some of the narra were lost.

"It's supposed to be Ng and the custodian who should be under investigation, not us," Nisperos said.

Ng said Thomas Toh, the owner of Catmon, is a *kumpare* (bosom buddy) of Estrada.

Nisperos said they had not been ordered by then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles to get Ng's lumber pieces and deliver these for use in the construction of the "Boracay mansion."

Buenaventura said the board should look if there was connivance between the two Chinese businessmen. He said Ng "may have wanted us out of the picture because of the criminal case we filed against him."

The DENR regional office has charged Ng with illegal possession of undocumented lumber before a Bulacan court.

Emotions run high during landfill hearing

BY RUSSELL ARADOR AND RONALD DIZON
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—Mayor Reynaldo Catacutan did not storm out of the session hall during Thursday's provincial board hearing on the proposed 100-hectare sanitary landfill in Capas town like what he did last week.

He, however, made sure that the board members knew what he and his fellow anti-landfill protesters were feeling toward what he called the "*moro-moro*" consultations.

Catacutan walked out of the first public hearing held on Jan. 10 after Vice Gov. Marcelino Aganon Jr. allegedly prevented him from airing his views.

He was joined by other anti-landfill officials, including a number of board members.

When allowed to speak on Thursday's hearing, Catacutan quickly raised Aganon's lack of protocol in addressing him.

He said it was insulting that the presiding officer kept calling him "Mr. Catacutan when I am the mayor of Capas."

He added that if he were to address the vice governor, who happens to be a lawyer, he would refer to him as "the Honorable Vice Governor Marcelino Aganon Jr., LI.B."

"I am also an honorable because I am a mayor. I do not deserved to be addressed (merely as) Mr. Catacutan," he said.

Catacutan was also fuming because Aganon said at the start of the hearing that those who staged the walkout "did not understand the procedures being followed by the provincial board (in the Jan. 10 hearing)."

He said the vice governor's statement was "an insult to us." "We left because (Aganon) was being unfair to us," he said.

Aganon was apparently having a hard time taking the mayor's outburst nonchalantly, smiling weakly at times and cutting Catacutan short several times.

Nearly losing his temper, he told the mayor to "go directly to the point."

Catacutan then took to task Board Member Carlito David's statement that when the environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the construction of the landfill was issued on Jan. 11, Catacutan "was a member of the provincial board."

David added that "the new board members did not know how the ECC was issued."

Catacutan said he was consistently opposed to the Clark Development Corp. landfill project. In fact, he said, he was one of those who signed a petition for the cancellation of the ECC.

"You even read in public the contents of the petition, which you yourself signed, together with Gov. Jose Yap and many others," he told David.

Rival militant groups in Negros to hold rallies

BACOLOD CITY—Militant groups in Negros Occidental will mark the first anniversary of People Power 2 with separate rallies on Sunday.

Members of the Sanlakas and its affiliate groups will hold a rally at the Foundation of Justice at 1 p.m., while those of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) will stage their own protest action at the Welcome Rotunda near the public plaza.

Although both groups will be mounting separate rallies, their aspirations will be the same—to oppose the involvement of American soldiers in the problem involving Moro rebels in Mindanao and to disprove the government's claims that the country's economy has slowly recovered.

They, however, stopped short at calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Allowing the (United States) troops to join (in) military exercises is unconstitutional," said Ariel Guides, Sanlakas-Negros spokesperson.

He said the joint military exercises might turn Mindanao into an actual war zone where not only members of the Abu Sayyaf but also innocent civilians would be killed.

Guides said that despite the President's promise of new politics, an elitist politics of accommodation persisted in the country.

Julius Mariveles, Bayan secretary general, said his group would show the people's disgust over Ms Macapagal's "betrayal of the people and the spirit of People Power 2" during its rally.

"Gloria has betrayed the people a year after Edsa II. She has totally turned her back on (the people's) interest," Mariveles said.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

SEMIRARA REVISITED

'People power' alive in Antique

BY NESTOR P. BURGOS
San Jose, Antique

AS THE COUNTRY commemorates the first anniversary of the ouster of Joseph Estrada from the presidency with protest rallies and government-sanctioned celebrations, Anti-queños silently remember their own version of "People Power."

A year ago, the people of this small and impoverished province successfully drove away two barges carrying tons of garbage from Metro Manila off the port of Semirara Island.

It was the culmination of an intense struggle to resist the plan of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to dump garbage on the island as an alternative to the San Mateo (Rizal) dump that was closed on Dec. 31.

Jay Pefianco, a convenor of the multisectoral United Antiqueños Against Garbage Dumping in Semirara Island (United Antiqueños), said the people's historic resistance has forever changed their lives, especially those who actively took part.

"The struggle united the whole province in a way never before seen since the outpouring of grief over (former governor) Evelio Javier's murder (in 1986) . . . even if the issue was just *basura* (garbage)," Pefianco said.

Beating a Goliath

After the Antiqueños, including those leaving outside of the province and abroad, helped the opposition in whatever way they can, "we became more self-confident in beating a Goliath," he said.

"Despite the passion, there had been pessimism because it was like going up against the Estrada administration itself," he recalled.

The project was conceived by the MMDA under then chair Jejomar Binay and Robert Aventajado, who headed the Greater Metro Manila Waste Management Committee. They contracted a consortium to undertake the P1.4-billion project on the island.

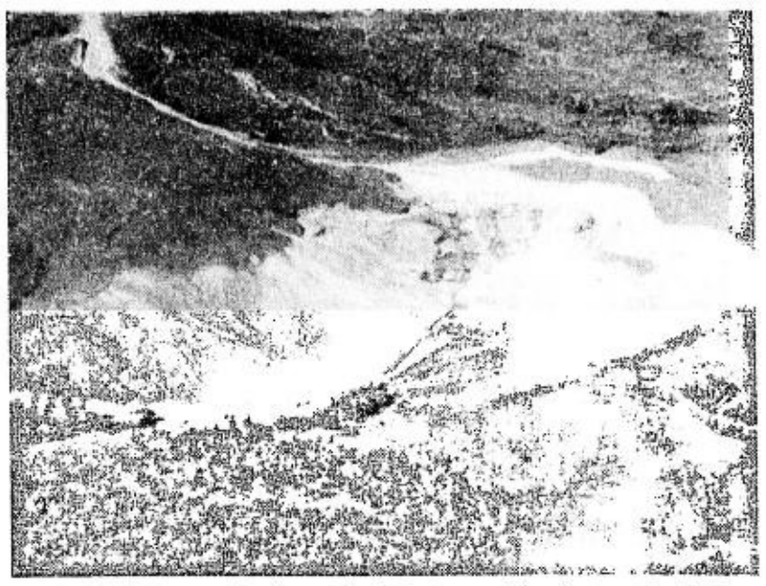
Under the plan, the consortium of D.M. Consunji Inc. (DMCI), Celdex and R-II Builders would transport by barge at least 2,000 tons of garbage daily to the dump on Semirara. The site was about a kilometer west of the Panian Pit, an active coal mine of Semirara Coal Corp. (SCC) in the northern part of the island.

The 5,500-hectare Semirara, one of the nine islands comprising Caluya town, is home of the DMCI-owned SCC, the biggest coal mine in Asia, which has been operating for more than 20 years.

The plan was met with widespread opposition from local residents, fearing environmental hazards resulting from the dumping of garbage.

A civil case to stop the project was filed by the United Antiqueños on Dec. 26. Respondents were Binay, Aventajado, the consortium, and then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles.

Thousands of people held rallies against the project. Local government units in Western Visayas also passed resolutions opposing the dumping.



PROPOSED dump on Semirara Island: Controversial project sparked Antique "people power" a year ago.

In Semirara, residents held vigils and barricaded the Dapdap Pier during the first week of January after two barges full of garbage arrived from Manila.

The barges were forced to return to Manila after Presiding Judge Sylvia Jurao of the Antique Regional Trial Court's Branch 10, granted the petition for a preliminary injunction on Jan. 18 last year.

The court barred all the respondents or their representatives from "dumping or causing to dump" the garbage from Metro Manila into Unong Pit or at any place at Semirara while the case was still pending.

'Never again'

Pefianco said the experience had heightened the people's awareness of and concern about taking care of the environment.

Members of the United Antiqueños, mostly in their late 20s and early 30s, have become more active in public affairs and programs of the province.

"We have learned to value the province more," said Pefianco.

During her inaugural speech in July, Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez said she would ensure that no barangay or island in Antique, especially Semirara in Caluya, will be used as dump for garbage from anywhere.

Perez, who was then Senate liaison officer of the Estrada administration, played a key role in soliciting support from legislators, including Sen. Loren Legarda, an Antiqueño, for their provincemates.

"Never again to *basura*!" the governor said.

She said the successful resistance of the Antiqueños had encouraged other communities to fight the dumping of garbage in landfills.

"It showed that we can be united despite political differences," said Roda Pon-an, executive director of the Antique Development Foundation. The group was among the non-government organizations and cooperatives that were active in opposing the project.

Despite the court order and the lingering euphoria over their victory, the people have remained vigilant, believing that threats against their community still persist.

On July 6 last year, the United Antiqueños asked the court in a petition to declare in contempt the consortium hired to undertake the project for allegedly violating the court order.

It accused the consortium of laying plastic liners in a hectare of land within the proposed 25-hectare dump that, it believed, was part of preparations for the actual shipment of garbage coming from Metro Manila.

The United Antiqueños presented aerial photographs that, they claimed, were taken before and after the preliminary injunction was issued.

Blackened areas in the proposed landfill site were seen in the photographs taken from a four-seater plane supposedly on May 4. There are no such areas in photos taken on Jan. 6 last year.

Unfounded

DMCI, through its legal counsel Roel Pacio, denied the charge as "unfounded."

Pacio said the consortium had no reason to continue construction of the proposed dump because the MMDA had scrapped the project.

The MMDA, represented by the Office of the Solicitor General, and DMCI have filed separate motions asking the court to dismiss the civil suit, saying it has become "moot and academic" because the MMDA has already abandoned the landfill project.

"If they have withdrawn the project, then they (respondents) should withdraw all opposition to the case and let the court grant a permanent injunction," Pefianco countered.

He said the people feared that the project would be revived again if a permanent injunction is not granted.

Jurao has not ruled on the case and the motions since these were submitted for decision in August last year.

Keeping guard

A year after, rumors spread by mouth and through text messages warning of an alleged plan to dump garbage from Japan in Semirara.

"These rumors persist because the site is still there and we know that garbage (disposal) is (a) very good business," said Pefianco.

He said DMCI and SCC "should do something to erase our fears," like the removal of the plastic liners and the implementation of a reforestation project on the pit.

Pacio dismissed the rumors. "That's not true. We have no plans . . . we are just waiting for the case to be dismissed but we will respect whatever decision of the court."

In the meantime, as the case drags, the people refuse to let their guard down. They are ready to regroup, make a stand and fight on issues that closely affect them.

"It is like taking part in (the) Edsa (uprisings), it is difficult if not impossible to go back to what we consider a normal life," said Pefianco.

US troops covered by VFA–DOJ

(From page A1)

sonnel in going after the Abu Sayyaf was covered by the VFA, the constitutionality of which the Supreme Court had affirmed.

Teehankee also said it would not be possible for the government to be entirely transparent regarding the Balikatan exercise because "the matter concerns tactical and strategic operations."

For all that, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez admitted that the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf would not be a walk in the park despite the active role to be played by more than 600 US military personnel, including the elite Green Berets.

"The Abu Sayyaf is a highly motivated adversary. You have to respect their fighting capability," he said in an interview over ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC).

Golez said that while the Abu Sayyaf strength was estimated to have dropped to about 100, including those holding hostage American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap, the armed group was expected to put up a tough fight.

"The terrain is in their favor, and this situation requires the capability of the Green Berets," he said.

Golez said 160-200 Green Berets would be deployed at the "rear" of combat sorties in Basilan, where about 5,000-7,000 Filipino soldiers had been thrown into action against the Abu Sayyaf.

"It's not exactly the frontlines but toward the rear," he said.

Golez said in a separate interview over radio station dzMM that it was the Green Berets "who will go with us to Basilan."

Teehankee acknowledged the "unique confluence" of military interests with the Balikatan exercise.

"The United States is continuing the war against international terrorism that it started in Afghanistan, while the Philippines wants to solve the Abu Sayyaf problem once and for all," he said.

The US government has listed the Abu Sayyaf as a satellite organization of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The Balikatan exercise—which is to feature "test missions" aimed at stamping out the Abu Sayyaf and rescuing its hostages—is scheduled to start next month.

Sen. Robert Barbers yesterday threw his support behind the deployment of US troops in Mindanao, saying the safe rescue of the hostages far outweighed some people's fears that the deployment was a violation of the Constitution.

"I welcome the American forces to the Philippines," he said. "What is more important now—sovereignty or the lives of our people in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf?"

Positioning

Some 110 US military personnel will be stationed at the headquarters of the Armed Forces' Southern Command in Zamboanga City to give training and advice on command and control, communications and logistics.

A group of more than 100 US soldiers will train two Light Reaction Companies (LRC) at the Malagutay area in Zamboanga City, which will also be deployed later in Basilan.

According to Golez, the training of one LRC—with emphasis on special operations like night fighting—takes four to five months.

The first Philippine LRC, which was trained last year also by US forces, is now deployed in Basilan.

Another group of 200 US servicemen will be stationed at the Air Force Base in Mactan, Cebu, where air strikes will be mapped out to support ground troops.

"The envisioned end result is zero Abu Sayyaf," Golez said.

Golez skirted the question on whether US forces would remain in the country for as long as the Abu Sayyaf had not been wiped out.

Instead, he said US military personnel would be here for at least six months, and their stay might be "extended based on requirements."

Golez, however, asserted that the Abu Sayyaf strength would be reduced "very dramatically in the next few months" with the help of US forces.

He stressed that US involvement in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf would be different compared to the situation in Afghanistan: "There won't be smart bombs and a lot of American forces."

In his interview over dzMM, Golez said US forces had the right to defend themselves if attacked.

"What we're saying is that just in case they are cornered and fired at, they have the right, and they don't need to seek approval, to defend themselves," he said.

Balance Piston

The close to 400 US soldiers who have arrived at the Clark Special Economic Zone are not bound for Zamboanga City for the Balikatan exercise.

"All troops at Clark are under Balance Piston," said Maj. Kevin Coyler, US joint mission commander of the month-long training.

The four-week Balance Piston involves 35 US soldiers and is aimed at enhancing "small-unit tactics" and the "interoperability" between US and Filipino infantrymen, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr. said in Manila.

"Unlike Balikatan, it is held several times a year. Last year, four such exercises were held," Mabanta said.

He added that Balance Piston would be held in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and Camp Tecson in Bulacan.

US Embassy press attaché Karen Kelly told the INQUIRER by telephone that there were "no indications that (the US troops in Clark) are participating in other exercises except in Balance Piston."

"I am not aware if they're going to Mindanao," she added.

Wire reports had said about 250 US soldiers in Clark were headed for the Balikatan war games in Zamboanga City and Jolo.

The Balance Piston training began yesterday in Fort Magsaysay.

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information officer of the Clark-based 600th Air Base Wing that was hosting the US contingent, agreed to the observation of reporters that the ongoing Balance Piston exercises involved a bigger number of US military personnel.

Coyler did not explain the basis for the increase in the number of US participants.

The last such exercise in July last year involved about 150 troops, according to previous statements from the Presidential Commission on the VFA.

No attacks

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, yesterday told Agence France Presse that they would not attack American troops engaged in the Balikatan exercise.

"They (American soldiers) are not our enemies," Kabalu said. "The pronouncement of Malacañang is that if the Americans ever use their arms, it would be trained on the Abu Sayyaf. We are assuring them we will not attack US troops."

Kabalu said Manila had assured them that the Americans would not be "directly involved in combat fighting," and that the target was the Abu Sayyaf and not the MILF.

However, he noted that the 12,500-strong MILF had camps scattered in some remote areas in Basilan, and that a potential misencounter could occur between their forces and Filipino soldiers accompanied by US soldiers.

"We will maintain our defensive mode," Kabalu said. "We will return fire if attacked—that is basic. But we hope we will not come to that point."

Last year the separatist group began peace talks with the government and signed a ceasefire deal. But sporadic skirmishes between the two forces have persisted.

The AFP, however, has accused the MILF of giving sanctuary to Abu Sayyaf gunmen on the run from a massive military operation in Basilan—a charge denied by the separatist group. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and TJ Burgonio in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AFP***

US senator stirs furor for remark on RP

(From page A1)

official bilateral agreement between the US and the Philippines. It's more of a shady deal between US President George W. Bush and President Macapagal-Arroyo."

The President, however, would not hear of the Philippines being compared to Afghanistan.

"(Brownback's statement is) just from their point of view," she told reporters at Isla Puting Bato in Tondo, Manila. "As far as I'm concerned, we've been fighting terrorists before. After the Sept. 11 (terrorist attack in the US), they (the Americans) joined us."

Brownback had said the Philippines would be the next Afghanistan because the United States would also be waging war here against local terrorists.

Over 600 US military personnel were allowed to go to Basilan, stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf bandits, and nearby Zamboanga supposedly for joint "training exercises."

Authorities said the US forces would help the military fight the Abu Sayyaf but would not join actual combat operations.

But critics say the plan is illegal because the Constitution bans the presence of foreign troops here.

Legal framework

Sen. Blas Ople, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said that while the chamber supported a strong stand against global terrorism, all pertinent agreements should be within the framework of the Constitution and existing laws.

Ople noted that the government had been speaking with discordant voices on the issue. But he dismissed Brownback's statement, saying the US senator was speaking "from a complete ignorance of Philippine reality."

"We're not going to be another Afghanistan or Vietnam because the problem here is confined to one area in Mindanao," he said.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan said the proposed security briefing by the President would provide Congress a candid assessment of the government's campaign against kidnapping as well as the status of the victims.

"This non-partisan session with the President and her advisers will hopefully erase any legal and constitutional questions lingering against the joint military exercise," he said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Brownback's statement added confusion because it contradicted that of US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that the US troops were here for joint training exercises.

"I do not refuse the American offer of assistance," he said. "But only if the government comes to the conclusion that we are not capable of eradicating the Abu Sayyaf and the other terrorist groups with our own resources, and if their assistance is in the proper form and undergoes the appropriate processes."

Biazon said it was Congress' responsibility to ascertain that all such arrangements were transparent.

'His own war'

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, tried to allay fears that the Philippines would become the next Afghanistan.

He said the AFP viewed the "Balikatan" exercises "as a means of enhancing our capability."

"We assure our people that it will be the Filipino soldier who will fight (his) own war within our territory," Villanueva said. "Nothing more than that will happen."

But Sen. Joker Arroyo pointed out that the presence of US troops in Basilan and Zamboanga was an implied admission by the AFP that it could not defeat the Abu Sayyaf.

"This is lamentable because it speaks volumes of the state of affairs and capacity of the AFP, which the government must address. The country must wake up," he said.

Arroyo added: "Who invited who? That is the question. It cannot be left unanswered. The government is duty-bound to answer that."

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said that aside from Brownback's statement, the fact that Vice President Teofisto Guingona was supposedly kept in the dark about the RP-US military exercises showed that "the Filipino is not being told the truth."

"The President keeps on saying that the American troops are here for joint military exercises, but here comes a US senator saying otherwise," Padilla said in a phone interview. "The statement of Brownback gives the impression that he has an authoritative source."

He urged the President to tell the public the real reason behind the Balikatan exercises.

Another opposition lawmaker, Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, said Brownback's statement proved that US troops were being sent here to rescue the missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham from their Abu Sayyaf captors.

"With the situation right now, the Philippine military is calling the shots, and not the Department of Foreign Affairs," he said.

Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada Jr. expressed alarm at Brownback's statement.

"My suspicion is, if a member of the US Congress endorses the stationing of troops here, Washington has discussed this with the US Congress," he said. "There must be something to it that we are not allowed to see. I am alarmed by that comment because it seems the US government wants to get into our country permanently."

Lozada chairs the House foreign affairs committee, which has been asked to investigate the presence of the US troops here.

It was Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo who filed the resolution seeking an inquiry by the committee. The resolution was eventually coauthored by 12 congressmen, including Lozada and other members of the House majority and minority.

'Second invasion'

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya urged the Filipino people to intensify resistance against the "second American invasion."

"Direct from the horse's mouth, Brownback's statement is tantamount to an ultimate declaration of war against the Filipino people," said Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert-Corpuz. "We must do something to stop the US mercenaries from killing people and exporting their war of aggression to other nations critical of US geopolitical, economic and military agenda."

He advised the Macapagal administration to ask the American senator, who is a member of the US Senate foreign relations committee, to disclose the basis for his remark. ***With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Martin P. Marfil, Christine Avendano, Juliet L. Javellana***

Solon ...

(From page A1)

rine soldiers in Jolo on Tuesday during a rally by supporters of detained Moro leader Nur Misuari. The clash killed 21 people, including civilians. The following day, irate civilians hacked dead three Scout Rangers at the Jolo public market.

Some 50 integrees belonging to the Special Mobile Group (SMG) are against their transfer, according to Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin.

"They are resisting the transfer, but we express the highest hope that they comply with the order and realize that they are no longer Misuari's forces but government personnel, who are obliged to perform duties according to government standards," Salapuddin said.

He said the policemen had expressed fears that they would be disarmed, charged in court or harmed.

The 50 SMG members are demanding that the Marines also be pulled out from Sulu.

To prevent a repeat of another clash between soldiers and police integrees, a contingent of police and military officials flew to Jolo to hold a dialogue with members of the SMG.

The contingent was composed of Director Lucas Managuelod of the Philippine National Police, Gen. Felipe Gaerlan of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and Deputy Director Samuel Ong of the National Bureau of Investigation.

"They were trying to hold dialogue with our SMG. The purpose (of the group) is to ensure that there won't be any violence," Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, told reporters.

Local Government Secretary Joey Lina also directed Abraham Iribani, assistant secretary on Mindanao concerns, to talk again with local officials in Jolo to clarify issues about Misuari's detention. Misuari is detained at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, on rebellion charges.

Despite the integrees' opposition, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said preparations for their return to their headquarters in Parang, Maguindanao, were underway.

Contrary to earlier reports, Cimatu said the Marines would remain on Sulu Island although they would be sent to Luuk town to ease the tension in Jolo.

Cimatu said an initial batch of 50 SMG members would be ferried to Maguindanao today. The 50 SMG members are identified as Misuari loyalists, according to a military source.

Cimatu declined to comment about the loyalties of the SMG members. He said the military would wait for the results of an investigation before issuing further statements.

Mendoza hinted that the integrees did not pose a threat, pointing out that they were not loyal to Misuari but to the Philippine government.

"These are not pro-Misuari fighters. As a matter of fact, they were the ones who blocked the entry of Misuari's group in Jolo," he said.

No loyalty check

Mendoza also rebuffed suggestions that the PNP conduct a loyalty check on the integrees, saying that "They are government employees. Besides, we have seen them through actions. They have done good jobs as policemen."

Mendoza also ruled out any need to disarm the integrees while being confined to the barracks.

"We are not disarming anybody; we're just transferring them in the same manner that the Scout Rangers and Marines involved in the incident will be transferred," he said.

Charges have not been filed against those involved in the shootout pending the results of the investigation.

Different version

"We're still investigating. We don't know what really happened. The AFP, the PNP and the local populace have their own versions of the incident," he said. ***(See related story on Page A1.)***

The AFP, PNP and the NBI are jointly investigating the shootout and are expected to come out with their report within 48 hours, according to the PNP chief.

Other members of the investigating team are representatives from the police force of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the Sulu provincial government.

Brig. Gen. Philip Gaerlan, AFP's Inspectorate General, heads the investigating team.

The integrees were part of the over 1,000 MNLF rebels who were integrated into the PNP and AFP in 2000.

Guingona says he's behind GMA

(From page A1)

The Vice President, who staunchly opposed the extension of the military bases agreement in 1991 and later on the Visiting Forces Agreement, was reportedly planning to resign after he was supposedly bypassed by the government on matters regarding the conduct of the "war games" in Mindanao.

"In my conversation with Secretary Guingona today, he assured me that he was not going to resign and that he would like to offer his expertise to help find a middle ground to this issue," Lozada said.

Lozada talked with Guingona regarding a House resolution asking the foreign affairs committee to investigate the presence of the large number of US troops in the country.

Lozada, who belongs to the administration party Lakas, heads the committee.

Lozada said Guingona believed something should be done about the issue of US troops before the matter got out of hand.

"He thinks that something has to be done fast but what it is, he doesn't know because he doesn't know what's going on," Lozada said.

'I'm not his spokesman'

In Tondo, Manila, earlier yesterday, the President refused to answer questions about Guingona's concerns about the "training exercise."

"I don't know," she snapped, cutting short a reporter's question during an ambush interview. "I cannot speak for him. I'm not his spokesman."

But she insisted that there was nothing illegal about the war exercise.

"What's important here is that this training exercise is in accordance with the Constitution and this is covered by the Visiting Forces Agreement," she said.

Ms Macapagal refused to say what was discussed during the meeting of the National Security Council's executive committee in Malacañang Thursday night, saying it was a "confidential meeting."

After that meeting, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the government would push through with the exercise but might cut down the number of US soldiers participating.

Ms Macapagal said the number previously announced—a total of 660 US personnel—was not yet final. She said that would be the maximum figure.

"It could still depend on our talks," she said.

Jolo carnage: Raw hatred runs amuck

(From page A1)

everybody's attention was on the second of the three-day rallies being held by Misuari sympathizers.

Main demand

The main demand of the organizers was for his immediate release from detention at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, where he had been brought upon arrival from Malaysia under cover of great secrecy.

All hell broke loose. The exchange of gunfire lasted for about 20 minutes. People reportedly scampered in all directions, took cover wherever they could. Residents in the vicinity started to flee their homes to hopefully safer areas.

None of the official news sources took calls, and as usual, only the two radio stations kept the people informed of what was going on. Even then, information was sketchy, body counts kept varying. The only thing clear was that several people had been killed, scores were injured, and the hospital personnel were desperately appealing for blood donations.

After the smoke had cleared, the common complaint of residents and officials was the conflicting media reports that were aired on the TV networks and printed in the following day's newspapers, particularly one purportedly coming from a "Jolo resident" that definitely pointed to a Marine as having "lobbed" a grenade into the crowd.

Versions varied

None of the eyewitnesses or officials interviewed by local radio had given such a version of bloody Tuesday.

And the versions, it seemed, varied according to the source, which meant whatever side the source was on.

Nevertheless, the available facts at this point tend to indicate the PNP's Special Mobile Group (SMG) as the main protagonists in the so-called "misencounter" and especially in the gruesome bloodbath the following day when three Scout Rangers were shot and killed and later hacked and mutilated.

Why?

Several disturbing questions begged to be answered:

Why was the Marine who was allegedly armed with a gun and a grenade mauled by the crowd instead of merely being apprehended and taken away? Why did his rescuing comrades fire warning shots instead of, as Sulu Task Force Comet commanding officer Col. Romeo Tolentino said they should have, negotiate with the superior officer of the police unit at the site?

But most unnerving is the question: Why were those Scout Rangers who had gone to the market to buy supplies killed, their bodies hacked and mutilated?

It was a scene that struck terror even in the hearts of seasoned photojournalists like the INQUIRER's Dennis Sabangan who has had his share of bloody frames shot here in Jolo especially at the height of the other year's September siege.

Was this same undisguised and intense hostility of the ralliers seen by those unfortunate Marines, which is why they fired warning shots instead of daring to approach them?

What was more frightening, as Sabangan who was with the Scout Rangers recounted, were the faces of the unidentified persons who closed in on him and tried to bar him from taking photos and grabbed his camera from him, if not for the timely intervention of a police officer.

And Sabangan—who was in Afghanistan when it was still dangerous to any mediaman's complexion to be there—raised the question: Why were they cut up like that when they were already dead?

Anachronistic

It was a scene of raw, naked hatred. Grimly anachronistic, an unexpected occurrence in the 21st century. It brought back images of the so-called Moro "juramentado" who reportedly hacked to pieces any Christian he met for no reason except for being a Christian.

Those Scout Rangers were killed and hacked to pieces for no apparent reason except that they were soldiers—and Christians.

Was it just a mere shoot-off of Tuesday's incident, a kind of vendetta, or did that hatred come from a bottomless pit of accumulated rage dormant for centuries and quickly aroused by a jeepload of Marines allegedly firing into a crowd of Tausugs?

"We will look not only into the incident itself, but also the factors surrounding it, the factors that led to it," regional Governor Parouk Hussin said in Jolo Thursday. "This is not a quarrel of institutions or even units. This could be at the level of personalities."

He just may be right.

Misuari and Tolentino

If we must look at personalities here, it will have to be the two top protagonists: Col. Tolentino and Misuari.

Everyone knows Misuari. But who is Col. Tolentino? Commander of the 104th army brigade and the task force that includes all branches of the Armed Forces operating in the province of Sulu, Tolentino is not the most popular military officer who has served here, and does not make any attempt to be.

We in the media have had a few encounters of the unpleasant kind with him for his frankness to the point of brusqueness. He cannot be charmed, much less intimidated into allowing us into restricted areas.

But he has earned the media's respect for being, above all, a professional soldier and a very brave one. This I saw for myself when I was stranded one afternoon at the height of the Sipadan hostage crisis at his command outpost in Abu Sayyaf heartland, and there ensued a shooting encounter between his men and the bandit group just nearby.

Sugod din siya (He rushed to the battle scene). Only three of us, two enlisted men and myself, were left in the detachment.

And he definitely is not one who would take sitting down any threat to the sovereignty and security of the flag under which he serves.

When Misuari convened his followers on Nov.3 in Silangkan and clearly threatened to tear this country asunder, he did what he thought he had to do.

"What would you have done in his place?" a military officer asked.

In an interview with radio dxSM earlier, Tolentino had said "*kung a-atake sila, di umatake,*(He can go ahead and attack) but he (Misuari) should stay and see what happens, he better not leave and go to another country."

Helicopter gunships bombarded Misuari's main camp in Silangkan, and on Nov. 19 ordered his followers to attack the brigade headquarters, before, or after which, he fled to Sabah where he was arrested by the Malaysian police five days later.

True to Tolentino's prescient remarks, Misuari did flee to another country, but, perhaps unknowingly, he had reinforced Misuari's decades-old rationale underlying the cause of the entire "Mindanao conflict."

Predictably, it was the renegade leader's justification for the November attacks: "in retaliation for the harassment and genocide of the Bangsamoro people."

And that, if stoked strongly enough by fiery rhetoric in an assembly such as that one held by Misuari in Silangkan, could fuel ancient embers to rise up into a towering inferno.

A Message to *Our Kapwa Pilipino*

On the Occasion of the Anniversary of People Power II
19 January 2002

We are facing a difficult challenge. The Philippine economy is expected to improve this year but poverty remains widespread. Last year, over 100,000 jobs were reported lost, particularly in the manufacturing sector. Our country may have weathered the worst period of the global slowdown but our problems are not yet over.

We have to focus our energies on working towards economic recovery and poverty alleviation. We have to increase direct investments, sustain and rehabilitate our businesses, and preserve existing jobs and create new ones in both our cities and rural areas. This is the only way to win our fight against poverty.

We urge all sectors of Philippine society to link arms and move together in finding ways to overcome the challenges before us.

- Let us review and focus our economic policies and programs to aggressively protect Filipino jobs and promote the national interest.
- Let us work for a business climate where entrepreneurship can thrive, with small and medium enterprises solidly contributing to economic development.
- Let us patronize *Pinoy* goods and services—but with local companies committing themselves to improving the quality of their products and services, offering reasonable prices, and practicing good corporate citizenship.

The *Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry*, through its 165 chambers nationwide is strengthening its nearly 50-year commitment to nation-building. The Federation's "Operation Barrio Schools Program" has already built more than 2,500 schoolhouses and is building 350 more this year. Its volunteer fire brigades continue to fight fires and save lives while its chambers carry out regular medical missions and undertake relief efforts whenever and wherever calamity strikes. The Federation further supports the government's economic development policies and tax collection efforts and the all-out drive against kidnapping, smuggling and other crimes.

There is no time to lose. The Federation is pursuing the following program:

- We are encouraging our members to invest in the countryside, particularly in agriculture and agri-based processing.
- We are propagating "hybrid rice" and establishing vegetable demonstration farms to help promote food self-sufficiency.
- We are providing computers to public high schools to strengthen the information technology skills of the youth.
- We are bringing basic education services to our rural communities through "Operation Barrio Schools".
- We are setting up a policy and program research institute and a business library to conduct studies and help in finding solutions to our country's problems.

We are one with the entire nation in building a better future.

With God's help, with unity and hard work, we will emerge from this crisis a better, stronger, and more progressive country.

Isa lang ang Bayan natin, isa lang ang Kinabukasan
Isa lang ang Bangka, isa lang ang Patutunguhan
Sama-sama sa Pagsulong, sama-sama sa Pagsagwan!

Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc.

Cameron Forbes Cup tomorrow

THE MANILA Polo Club pays tribute to its founder and "Father of Philippine Polo," William Cameron Forbes Cup, with two polo matches starting at 2 p.m. tomorrow at the Club's East Polo field grounds. As Governor General to the Philippines in the early 1900s, he caused the construction of the Manila Polo Club in 1909. Robert W. Fitts, MPC President Pol Ascalon and GM Philippe D. Bartholomi will hand the awards.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▩ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

San Vicente booters enter finals

NEWCOMER San Vicente National High School of Camarines Norte surprised Southern Luzon Polytechnic College Laboratory School of Lucban, Quezon, 6-2, recently to clinch a berth in the Luzon finals of the Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament. The Camarines booters led 3-1 at halftime as they played aggressively from start to finish. Another team, Gen. Licerio Memorial National High also made it to the Luzon finals by beating Antipolo High, 3-1, to emerge as Rizal champion.

BATANG RED BULL

Se sees dream fulfilled, inks ₱9-M deal

SE

BY DENNIS U. EROA

HOMER Se and his family can now heave a sigh of relief.

The 6-foot-5 Se signed a three-year, P9-million deal with Batang Red Bull yesterday to fulfill his dream of "lifting my family from poverty."

After going public regarding his humble origins, the Bicolano standout's huge paycheck will hopefully keep him focused on filling the shoes of Kerby Raymundo, who was traded to Purefoods.

"We got what we wanted," said Albert Almendralejo, Se's manager. "I salute Red Bull because negotiations were conducted amid a friendly atmosphere."

Se will get the maximum monthly salary of P200,000 in his initial year as a Thunder.

Se became the first player drafted in the first round to reach agreement with his team. Red Bull picked him 5th overall on Sunday during the PBA Draft at Glorietta in Makati.

Almendralejo and Chua finalized the agreement at the Red Bull quarters in Valle Verde, Pasig City. Formal signing will be held either today or early next week, said Almendralejo.

Red Bull team manager Tony Chua said management is happy to reach agreement with Se, who formerly played for San Sebastian College in the NCAA and the Cebu Gems in the MBA.

Coach of the year Yeng Guiao said the addition of Se will boost the team's ceiling since former rookie of the year Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi are going to be tied up with the national training pool.

Guiao also confirmed that veteran Ato Agustin may no longer be given a new contract, same with Lowell Briones. Still up in the air are the fate of Edmund Reyes and Bernard Tanpua.

Slotman Yancy de Ocampo, the number one draft pick, and amateur basketball player of the year Ren Ren Ritualo have yet to sign up with FedEx. Chester Tolomia and Gilbert Malabanan (Ginebra) and Omanzie Rodriguez (Sta. Lucia) also remained unsigned.

Rodriguez Cebu coach

LURE back the Cebuano crowd and give Cebuana Lhuillier the MBA national championship. Francis Rodriguez had these goals in mind when he agreed to coach the Gems in the MBA this year.

For a start, Rodriguez said he'd give preference to local talents in forming an explosive scoring team for the MBA's First Conference beginning on April 6.

Second, he'd look for capable big guys to fill up the void left by Homer Se, now with Batang Red Bull, and Willy Mejia, who's still vying for a slot in the Thunder roster.

"We're going to hold tryouts in Cebu. I want players whom the Cebuanos can identify themselves with," said Rodriguez, whose appointment was formally announced by Cebuana Lhuillier owner Jean Henri Lhuillier yesterday.

"We are excited to see Francis Rodriguez joining the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems and we are confident that he will do a good job in harnessing the potential in each player that he gets for the team," said Lhuillier in a press statement. "We join everyone in wishing Francis the success in his new position."

Jean Henri, his father Philip, team manager Danny Francisco and Rodriguez signed the appointment papers on Wednesday.

Rodriguez said he'd been given leeway by the Lhuilliers to form the Gems as he wishes.

His main problem, however, is the lack of a true center who's in the mould of Se.

"If I can get two legitimate big men then the rest would follow naturally," said Rodriguez, who took over from Tonichi Yturri. *Roy Luarca*

Shell to sign up Calaguio, 3 others

BY ROY LUARCA

CALAGUIO

SHELL is going to sign up Chris Calaguio and its three other rookie draftees for the PBA Commissioner's Cup starting on Feb. 10, according to team manager Bobby Villarosa.

"It (Calaguio contract) is virtually sealed. We've given him a four-year deal and only the finer points need to be cleared by the top Shell management," said Villarosa, who, however, refused to divulge the amount involved.

Tendered two-year contracts were lanky Frederick Canlas, the No. 7 choice, Rainier Sison (No. 14) and Edwin Bacani (No. 15).

Based on his former salary of P170,000 monthly, excluding bonuses, with the MBA Andok's San Juan Knights, however, it can be surmised that the 6-foot-1 Calaguio, the No. 4 pick, would get no less than P200,000 monthly plus other perks.

A proven scorer and an able defender, Calaguio can start immediately for coach Perry Ronquillo's charges either at the point or the off-guard spot with fellow former MBA star Dale Singson.

"We're just waiting for their counter-proposals," said Villarosa.

Canlas is raw and untested, but at 6-foot-9 and barely 21 years old he's a prime prospect at the slot. Shell has shipped Mike Telan to Talk N Text.

Lower picks like Rensy Bajar, Fil-Canadian Richard dela Pena and former FedEx Laguna Laker Richie Melencio are unlikely to be signed up, added Villarosa.

WILLIAMS: "Ice is my best friend." REUTERS

Venus bucks swelling knee, wins in 3

MELBOURNE, Australia —Venus Williams tested her knee and her strokes and came out smiling Friday, advancing to the fourth round of the Australian Open with a 3-6, 6-0, 6-4 victory over Daniela Hantuchova.

After limping through a victory Wednesday with a recurrence of tendinitis in her left knee, Williams again was running wide for returns and chasing down drop shops.

"The main battle was getting the swelling down," Williams said. "It's a blessing I'm here.

"Ice is my best friend," she added.

In other third-round matches Friday, Monica Seles overcame a slow start and the agile retrieving of Francesca Schiavone for a 6-4, 6-4 victory. Adriana Serra Zanetti beat 11th-seeded Silvia Farina Elia 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; 13th-seeded Magdalena Maleeva beat No. 18 Lisa Raymond 7-5, 6-1; Martina Sucha defeated Asa Svensson 6-0, 6-4; and Anabel Medina Garrigues beat Nathalie Dechy 6-3, 6-2. *AP*

Int'l cockers meet media at Big Dome

MULTI-TITLED cocker-breeders from the United States, including the Philippines' winningest names in cockfighting, will meet the tri-media today during the traditional press launch at the Foodome in Cubao, highlighting the World Slasher 8-Cock International Derby on Jan. 21, 23 and 25 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Derby hosts Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Gov. Ito Ynares and Jun Santiago of the Firefly Group have lined up some 70 well-balanced and quality fights for the three-day cocking festival, widely accepted as the Olympics of Cockfighting.

It will kick off on Monday, Jan. 21, with two-cock elimination matches, followed by another two-cock elims on Wednesday, Jan. 23, before winding up with a four-cock finals on Friday, Jan. 25.

Leading the US contingent are the legendary Ray Alexander of Alabama who won the coveted World Slasher Cup in 1993; last year's surprise champions Roger Roberts and Johnny Philips of Georgia, who teamed up with Nene Araneta; and 1994 winner Dan Gray of Louisiana, who captured the coveted crown with top Filipino cocker-breeder Jun Santiago.

The World Slasher Derby, considered the biggest cockfighting event of the year, is sponsored by Thunderbird Enertone, the ready-mixed maintenance feeds.

Fontana hosts dance sports

IN LINE with its thrust to promote the sport nationwide, the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines, headed by president Becky Garcia for the sixth straight year, will mark its first event for 2002 by staging the national quarterly ranking and competition at the Fontana Convention Center at Clark Field in Pampanga on March 7-9.

The activities will actually start on March 4, 5 and 6, also at Fontana when DSCP professional affiliate, the Professional Dance Teachers' Association, the only recognized member of the World Dance and Dancesport Council, conducts a three-day teachers' and adjudicators' course. The group is headed by president Cynthia Mamon and chair Ms Garcia.

On March 7 and 8, a workshop for Latin and Standard competitors and adjudicators will be conducted by international coach of world champions and licensed adjudicator Worlfang Opitz of Germany.

For more details, call Vikky Cabrera at the Dancesport Center, tel. 635-0116 or Rubie at 752-0435 to 36.

SPORTSWATCH

Philta Age-Group unfolds

CHASE Tinio battles Edison Santiago and Lawrence Magaway faces William Murrell today in the boys' 18-under division of the Philta Classic 1 Age-Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Also playing are Christian Cuarto against Byron Hontiveros, Irwin de Guzman against Kyle Dandan, Gino Bautista against Val James Villanueva and Dino Ferrari against Jandrick de Castro. In the boys' 14-under class, Christian Canlas meets Johnwill Baldonado at 9 a.m. while Joshua Tan Ho and James Murrell square off at 2 p.m. Seeing action in the girls' 18-under first round are second pick Tracy Bautista against Kristel Ann Samala and third seed Alyssa Labay against Catherine Flores. Matches in the unisex 10-under category also begin at 9 a.m., with Liz Magaway playing Noel Agra, Akio Sy facing Irina Quinatadcan, Joseph Baldonado taking on Pemrik Alina and Jigo Pena meeting Gerard Chadi.

Milo Checkmate clinics begin

THE 2002 Milo Checkmate Saturday-only clinics reel off today at three venues—St. Benedict College (SBC) in Muntinlupa City, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Vito Cruz, Manila, and Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. Classes at SBC are from 7-11 a.m. at the HS student lounge, at RMSC – 9:30-1:30 p.m. at the Badminton Bldg., and 2:30-5:30 p.m. at the 2/F Centermall in GSC. Qualified are kids 5 years old and above. Enrollees may register at the venue site of their choice and must come at least 30 minutes before the clinic begins. Call 826-8560 for other details. The Milo checkmate teaching staff headed by Checkmate founder and Soviet-trained coach NWM Mila Emperado includes IM Rafaelito Maninang Jr., NMS Mirabcau Maga, Mauro Yasay and Jerry Nodado. New recruits are NM Nicodemus Alisangco and NWM Rachelle Pascua, a Milo Checkmate product and the first Filipina World Chess Olympic bronze medalist.

NCRAA: PUP trips Lyceum, 64-63

GAMES TODAY (Lyceum gym)
8 a.m. SFACS vs New Era (jrs) 9:30 a.m. Olivarez vs CDSL (jrs)
11 a.m. SFACS vs PUP (seniors) 12:30 p.m. PMI vs DLSU-M (seniors)
2 p.m. DLSU-D vs Emilio Aguinaldo (seniors)
3:30 p.m. CDSL vs Lyceum (seniors)

POLYTECHNIC University of the Philippines (PUP) survived a late rally by Lyceum in the final seconds for a 64-63 win and the number one spot in the women's semifinals of the National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) basketball tournament yesterday at the Lyceum gym. The Maroons finished the single round quarterfinals with 7-0 record and will face De La Salle-Dasmariñas (4-3), which came to the next round aided by its win via forfeiture over Philippine Maritime Institute team that was suspended following a late game rumble with Colegio de San Lorenzo last Thrusday.

Roligon BJ derby offers ₱.3M

COCKFIGHTING aficionados will be treated anew to exciting encounters with the holding today of the BJ INC 4-Cock Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Hosted by popular Dennis del Rosario, the derby offers P300,000 for an entry fee of P10,000 and a minimum bet of P5,500. Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty said weights between 1.8 kg and 2.4 kg must be submitted on the day of the derby from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. He also said that the fights will start at exactly 7 p.m. Other derbies scheduled at Roligon are: Cyberfriends Global 4-Cock Derby on Jan. 26 and 12th Anniversary 5.5-Million 7-Cock National Derby on Jan. 28-Feb. 15. For inquiries and cockhouse reservation, call 833-16-38 or 833-22-75.

FedEx releases Locsin, Hawkins

BY JUNE NAVARRO

AFTER no team expressed interest to hire their services, Noli Locsin and Bong Hawkins have no choice but to agree to a contract buyout.

Federal Express president Lito Alvarez said the two former Tanduay stars have no takers on the trading block, forcing the Express to buy out the rest of their contracts.

"We only have three weeks to form the team according to our liking. We have no other choice but to let them go," said Alvarez, who alternates as team manager and PBA Board Governor.

Slotman Zaldy Realubit, one of Tanduay's remnants, was also offered a contract buyout.

Danny Espiritu, Hawkins and Locsin's manager, said FedEx should submit their proposal in writing before they could sit down and settle the issue.

"We would like to see the proposal. If it's not acceptable, we will make a counter-offer," Espiritu told the INQUIRER.

Locsin, a 6-foot-3 bruiser, and the versatile Hawkins still have three years more on their contracts.

The moment both parties failed to reach an agreement, Espiritu said the proposals would be presented to the PBA Commissioner's Office for arbitration.

The decision of Commissioner Jun Bernardino on such disputes, however, is always final and executory.

To avoid getting the raw end of the deal, Espiritu said they would exhaust all means on striking an agreement with FedEx before asking Bernardino for help.

FedEx, on its maiden season in the league, already has eight players sure of making the team namely rookies Yancy De Ocampo and Renren Ritualo, Dindo Pumaren, Wynne Arboleda, Alex Crisano, Elmer Lago, Ryan Bernardo and Paul Alvarez.

To beef up its inexperienced roster, FedEx is planning to bring in 6-foot-7 Desmond Fergusson of the Flint Fuze in the Continental Basketball Association. Fergusson, 24, was sixth in scoring and three-point shooting during the 2001 CBA season.

Masa cagefest starts today

GAMES TODAY
8:30 a.m. Sakya Academy vs Scholastic Academy (Men Basketball)
10:00 a.m. Philadelphia vs St. Peter (Men Basketball)
11:30 a.m. Philadelphia vs Yorklin School (women Volleyball)
12:30 p.m. Scholastic Academy vs St. Peter (Women Volleyball)

THE METROPOLITAN Amateur Sports Association (Masa), a 3-year-old sports group composed of Filipino-Chinese schools, opens the 2002 season with a basketball league for men and a volleyball tournament for women starting today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

A total of eight high schools are joining the tournaments, which are being held under the auspices of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP), Philippine Amateur Volleyball Association (Pava) and the Philippine Integrated Chinese Athletic Association (Picaa).

Shark shoots for incentive vs ICTSI-La Salle

STANDINGS	W	L
Welcoat Paints	9	5*
Shark Energy	9	5**
ICTSI-La Salle	9	5**
Kutitap Toothpaste	8	6
Blu Detergent	7	7
Ana Freezers	5	9***
Montaña Jewels	5	9***
Ateneo-Pioneer	4	10

No. 1 team due to quotient*
playoff for 2nd semis spot**
playoff for last q'terfinals spot***

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs Montaña
4 p.m.—Shark Energy vs ICTSI-La Salle

BY DENNIS U. EROA

TITLEHOLDER Shark Energy Drink tries to save a faltering campaign as it clashes with dangerous International Container Terminal Services Inc-La Salle today with the winner joining topnotcher Welcoat Paints to the semis of the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Shark wasted a golden oppurtunity to automatically clinch the number one position as it got ambushed by Montaña Jewels, 99-86, last Thursday. It finished tied with Welcoat and ICTSI-La Salle after the double-round elimination, but the Paintmasters advanced with a better quotient of 1.040.

To join Welcoat and gain the twice-to-beat incentive in the crossover semis, Shark needs to play with the same ferocity which allowed it to beat ICTSI-La Salle twice in the eliminations.

"I am fully confident that we can survive this test," said Shark coach Leo Austria. "The team isn't new to this kind of challenge."

The Shark-ICTSI playoff is set at 4 p.m., after another knockout tussle between Ana Freezers and Montaña Jewels at 2 p.m. The winner between Ana and Montaña gains the sixth and last quarterfinals slot.

Ana ousted Ateneo-Pioneer, 77-74, to force the playoff with Montaña.

High-leaping Chester Tolomia, a flop against the Jewels, will again banner Shark's bid against the Archers, who pin their hopes on playmaker Mike Cortez.

ICTSI big men Manny Ramos, Nelbert Omolon, Bernzon Franco and Adonis Sta. Maria must also hold their ground against Shark skyscrapers Irvin Sotto and Rysal Castro.

Shark attack also leans on the playmaking skills of Michael Robinson. Though lacking a reliable offense, the 5-foot-8 Robinson has proven capable of upstaging the six-footer Cortez. Robinson, however, is still hurting from the accident that had befallen his son. Robinson's 6-year-old son was injured when he was sideswiped by a passenger jeepney in Olongapo City.

NBA RESULTS

Philadelphia 93, Charlotte 88; Chicago 94, Atlanta 91; Dallas 108, Memphis 97; San Antonio 102, Utah 98; Miami 92, Portland 90, OT. *AP*

AUSTRIA

RP LADIES OPEN

Chua's 'victory speech' propels her to victory

BY JONG ARCANO

AT 5:30 a.m. yesterday, Heidi Chua was reciting her victory speech, arms still wrapped around the pillow. Not that she was sure of winning, Chua said.

"I just felt I needed to start the day on a positive mindset," she said.

The ploy worked as the 20-year-old Chua rallied from five strokes down to win the 40th Philippine Ladies Open Championship at Wack Wack.

She did it almost incredibly, razing the five-shot deficit with eight holes left to play.

She won by one over ertswhile leader Aileen Rose Yao and *balikbayan* Ria Quiazon in a final round shootout that saw their fortunes swing wildly at Wack Wack West.

Chua submitted one of the highest winning final-day scores in the event's history—a seven-over-par 79.

But it was good enough to give her the crown as Yao and Quiazon blew their chances away down the stretch.

Despite a string of disastrous holes, Yao teed off on the 17th still tied for the lead with Chua. Yao, however, double-bogeyed the hole after hitting the bunker and next making a horrifying three-putt mistake from eight feet.

Quiazon led on the 16th only to finish with three consecutive bogeys. On the 18th, the UCAL-Berkeley standout still had the chance to forge a playoff with Chua but missed a four-footer for par.

When Quiazon bungled the tying putt, it gave Chua the luxury of needing to two-putt for bogey to clinch the crown.

Chua finished 54 holes at 227. Yao soared to an 82 after a back nine 44, and Quiazon closed out with a 78 as both were tied at 228.

Lily Chan of Sta. Elena (Class A) and Marissa Romano of Orchard (Class B) were the other winners in the tourney supported by PLDT, the Philippine Sports Commission, Carlos Palanca Foundation, Nice Shot DNF, Sentry Fire & Theft Safes and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Sarah Henderson, who bannered the Hong Kong challenge, closed out with an 81 and settled for fourth place at 232, Lina de Guzman also scored an 81 for fifth spot at 235, jungolfer Jayvie Agojo checked in sixth at 236 after a 79 and another HK entry, Eva Yoe (78), wound up at 237.

Chua said she was looking forward to making it back to the national team for the Asian Games.

"I love representing the country. I will really work hard to get into the team," said Chua, who also bared plans of joining the LPGA Qualifying School.

ROMY HOMILLADA

CHUA: Rallies from 5 shots with 8 holes left to play.

Wallace heads players on trading block

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

THE TRADING deadline is still a month away—Feb. 21 (Feb. 22, Manila time), to be exact—but the rumor mills are already filled with potential player exchanges.

Among the players reportedly on the trading block are Portland's Rasheed Wallace and Bonzi Wells, Denver's Nick Van Exel, Miami's Brian Grant, Indiana's Travis Best, Golden State's Marc Jackson and Washington's Kwame Brown.

Hottest rumor has hot-tempered Wallace joining fellow North Carolina alumni Michael Jordan, Hubert Davis and rookie Brendan Haywood at Washington and disappointing Brown, the first high school player ever to be selected No. 1 overall in an NBA draft last June, transferring to Portland in the exchange.

To make the deal work under salary-cap rules, which state that salaries of traded players must be within 15 percent of each other plus $100,000, several marginal players will have to be thrown in.

The Trail Blazers, NBA title contenders in past seasons, are borderline candidates for this year's postseason party and probably looking to rebuild soon.

Wallace, a 6-11 All-star power forward whom Detroit also covets, may have toned down his disruptive act but his ability to perform as the club's leader remains questionable. In fairness to him, the Blazers' impending downfall can also be attributed to rookie NBA head coach Maurice Cheeks' failure to quickly mesh together a team that is clearly more talented than its current record.

Even Wells, the 6-5 starting guard who is now the club's No. 2 scorer behind Wallace, could be a goner after his derisive assessment of Blazers fans in mid-December. He was quoted in Sports Illustrated as saying, "We're not going to worry about that the hell' (the fans) think... they don't really matter to us. They can boo us every day, but they're still going to ask for our autographs if they see us on the street. That's why they're fans and we're NBA players."

Wells additionally is eligible for free agency in July. At least four teams are interested in Well's services—Indiana, Memphis, Cleveland and Miami. Yet he may be more valuable to a club that is only one gifted shooting guard away from contending for an NBA crown.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. King Ram 2. Dancing Kiara 3. Forest Dancer 4. Johann Song
Race 2—1. Time Essential 2. Ocean Menary 3. Cristel Jay 4. Raise D Sun
Race 3—1. Profit Margin 2. You and Me 3. Vinfa's Pride 4. Turkish Delight
Race 4—1. Serena 2. Master Ijhay
Race 5—1. Senor Perior 2. Courage Heart 3. Aim for Ghold 4. Sperocosta 5. Scream for Chance
Race 6—1. Power Pack 2. Gemstone
Race 7—1. Dear Elane 2. Beautiful Task 3. Truthful Lady
Race 8—1. Impeachment 2. Candy's Angel 3. Gentleman's Copy 4. Green Buck
Race 9—1. Bull Dancing 2. Dragon Lover 3. Haz It All
Race 10—1. Empowered 2. Always 3. Dragon Doding 4. Winning Rose
Race 11—1. Thunder Speed 2. Roulette Queen 3. Manila Mauler
Race 12—1. Morning Glory 2. Ladies Night 3. Winning Prize
Race 13—1. Golden Brook 2. Double Header 3. Yes Sir 4. Cheese Laffongga 5. Ginger Spice 6. Valiant Queen

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Australian Open at 8 a.m. on Sky Cable 29 and Home Cable 17

Hopman Cup 2002 Finals at 12 noon on Star Sports

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFC Divisional Playoffs – Philadelphia Eagles vs Chicago Bears tomorrow at 5:30 a.m., AFC Divisional Playoffs – Oakland Raiders vs New England Patriots tomorrow at 9a m. on Studio 23

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1987, Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla shot 581 points to win his third straight centerpiece pistol title at the Marine range in Fort Bonifacio. Also today in 1990, GM Eugene Torre tallied 7.5 points to place third in the Goodrick International Chess Open in Calcutta, India.

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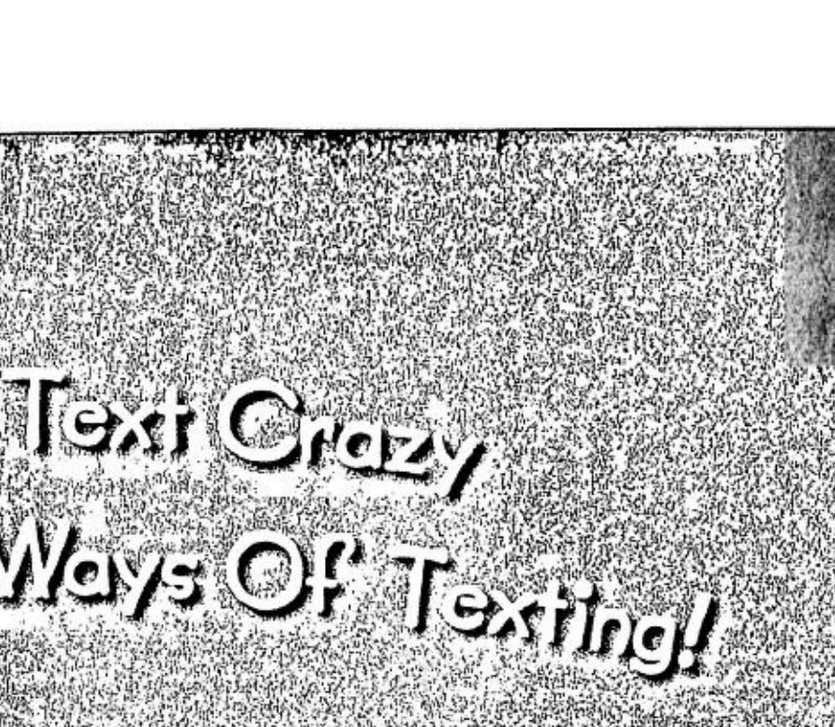

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■ Mayors want police districts abolished A20

P.5M needed to free OFW facing execution in Saudi

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

SABINIANO Yncierto, 36, has been in jail in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for two years now on charges of theft and the murder of a fellow Filipino. He stands to face execution and leave his wife and their three children forever.

But his wife Nelia is trying very, very hard not to blame anybody.

The only thing that can spare Yncierto's life is a letter of forgiveness from the family of victim Arnold Mengit, also an overseas Filipino worker based in Saudi.

Nelia, with the help of the non-government organization Kakammpi and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, is moving heaven and earth to raise P500,000 as "goodwill money" for Mengit's family.

"We're no longer looking at the guilt or innocence of Mr. Yncierto but at mercy," said OWWA chief Wilhelm Soriano. "What's important is we save a life."

Yncierto left the country in 1995 to work as a mechanic in Riyadh. He asked Nelia to allow him to work continuously for at least five years.

Like many OFWs, Yncierto decided to sacrifice his vacations and not come home to the Philippines so he could save for his children's education.

Nelia thought everything was okay, until the letters stopped coming and she received a phone call from her husband telling her he had been arrested.

P.5M NEEDED/ A20

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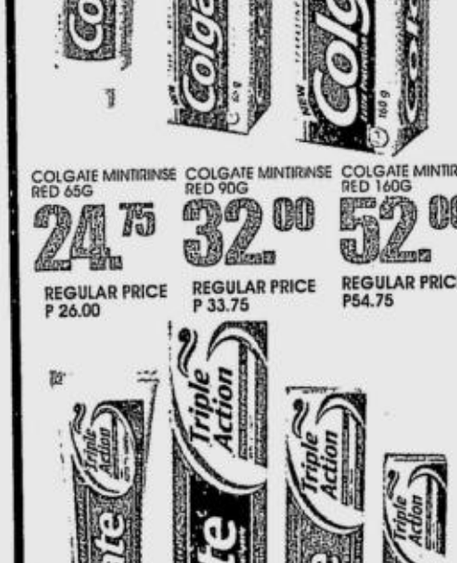

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Gov't in a bind in Jolo bloodbath

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's critics say she is an excellent manager but a lousy leader.

They say that although she knows her job well, she doesn't have charisma. They say she also lacks warmth in dealing with the people; her gestures of reaching out to the poor are *pilit* or put-on.

* * *

But which would you rather have, a leader who oozes with charisma but who's very inept and corrupt, or a manager who seems to be cold and distant but is efficient and honest?

C'mon, let's get real! You can't have the best of both worlds.

* * *

We had Erap who, because he is good at theatrics, was able to project an image of a doting leader to the masses.

But what did he do when he was out of sight of the adoring crowd? He was almost always drunk on expensive wine. His idea of work was signing multimillion-peso government contracts upon the prodding of his cronies while he was inebriated, or counting millions of pesos earned from *jueteng* and other corrupt deals.

* * *

Now, you have GMA. If she seems snooty, *mataray*, and short-tempered, it's because she was to a manor born. Can you blame her if she was born that way?

But she's trying to make up for that flaw in her character. Who's perfect, anyway? She's honestly reaching out to the poor. If she's having little success because her gestures look contrived, that's only because she's not an actress. She's also trying her best to be a little more patient and tolerant of other people's shortcomings.

But look at her work ethic. She wakes up early to start working and knocks off late. She shows impatience over unfinished or sloppy work of subordinates, a trait of every efficient manager. She can't stay put in her office at Malacañang and travels around because she wants to see the problems of the nation firsthand.

* * *

It was a terrible mistake assigning in their own territory former Moro rebels who have been integrated into the PNP.

The government paid a high price for that mistake when these police integrees fought and killed government troops during a pro-Misuari rally in Jolo.

As I've always said in this space, Muslims will always side with their fellow Muslims if the enemy are "infidels" or non-Muslims. Those former MNLF rebels who were drafted into the police and military are no exception. Their loyalty is to their fellow Muslims, not the government.

* * *

The government should have learned from the mistake of the past.

In 1973, the then Philippine Constabulary (PC) recruited about 200 Maranaws (Muslims from Lanao) for assignment to their province. This was before the attack on Marawi City by Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels.

All the PC Maranaw recruits defected to the MNLF during the attack.

* * *

A typical Filipino Muslim's loyalty is to his religion, first and foremost, and then to his tribe. Loyalty to the government is remote since it is predominantly Christian.

Government leaders should consider this reality the next time they recruit Muslims into the police or military.

* * *

Those former Moro rebels-turned-policemen would have made excellent soldiers if they were assigned to Luzon or the Visayas. Outside of their province, they wouldn't be placed in a situation where they would be ordered to fight their relatives, friends and fellow Muslims.

Those PNP integrees could have been put to good use in areas infested by the New People's Army (NPA).

During World War II, the US government recruited Americans of Japanese parents into the Army. These Japanese-Americans, called Niseis, were not assigned in the Pacific because they would be fighting their fellow Japanese. They proved their loyalty to US fighting the German army in Europe.

* * *

Military and police leaders are in a bind in the aftermath of the Jolo bloodbath. If they let the Misuari boys, now with the PNP, go unpunished, they would have a rebellion from the Marines and the Army Rangers.

On the other hand, if the military and police leadership punishes the PNP integrees for starting the bloodbath, these former rebels will go back to the hills.

It's a choice between the Devil and the deep blue sea.

* * *

But the government should be firm. It should punish the group that started the trouble.

Results of initial investigation point to the PNP integrees still loyal to their former leader, Nur Misuari, as the ones who started the trouble.

The government cannot afford to be wishy-washy on the Jolo incident.

It's better to get the ire of a bunch of Moros who haven't changed their loyalty, anyway, than to earn the displeasure of the rank and file of the entire Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police.

Witness saw who shot Strawberry, police say

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA

POLICE have identified an eyewitness who supposedly saw the very person who fired the shots that killed former child actress Strawberry on Dec. 18.

According to Insp. Sergio Gaarrobo, chief of the Las Piñas Station Investigation Division, the new witness is holding the "final piece of the puzzle" in the killing of Anouk Baldo, 25, also known as Strawberry.

The witness was driving in the vicinity of BF Executive Village in Las Piñas and allegedly saw the confrontation between the group of John Mark Doromal, Baldo's boyfriend, and the family of Raynaldo Picar, Gaarrobo said.

"Hopefully, he'll be able to pinpoint the gunman or gunmen," Gaarrobo said.

An investigating team, composed of the Las Piñas police, the national police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, and the National Bureau of Investigation, is still consolidating accounts of the witnesses nearly a month after Baldo's death.

The SPD director, Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, said the composite team has at least seven witnesses in its custody.

In the course of their investigations of Baldo's murder, the different agencies came up with conflicting results, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday.

Wycoco said the CIDG inquiry led them to identify members of the Picar family as the culprits.

But the NBI, Las Piñas Police and Southern Police District found that it was Doromal's group that was responsible for the death of the former child actress.

Wycoco said that for the different agencies to reconcile the conflicting results, they would have to reenact the incident that led to the fatal shooting.

He added the NBI and the police would also schedule another command conference so that the different investigating agencies could "compare notes" on the killing.

The NBI earlier announced that it had a witness who claimed it was Doromal's two guards, employed by his father's security agency in Las Piñas, who opened fire on Baldo.

"(The witness) saw Mark Doromal berating the two security guards," Wycoco said. "The insinuation is that the guards mistakenly shot Strawberry."

Wycoco added that the witness "is very credible," adding that the witness was "there at the scene of the crime at the time."

But Wycoco declined to name the witness, who was turned over to the Las Piñas police.

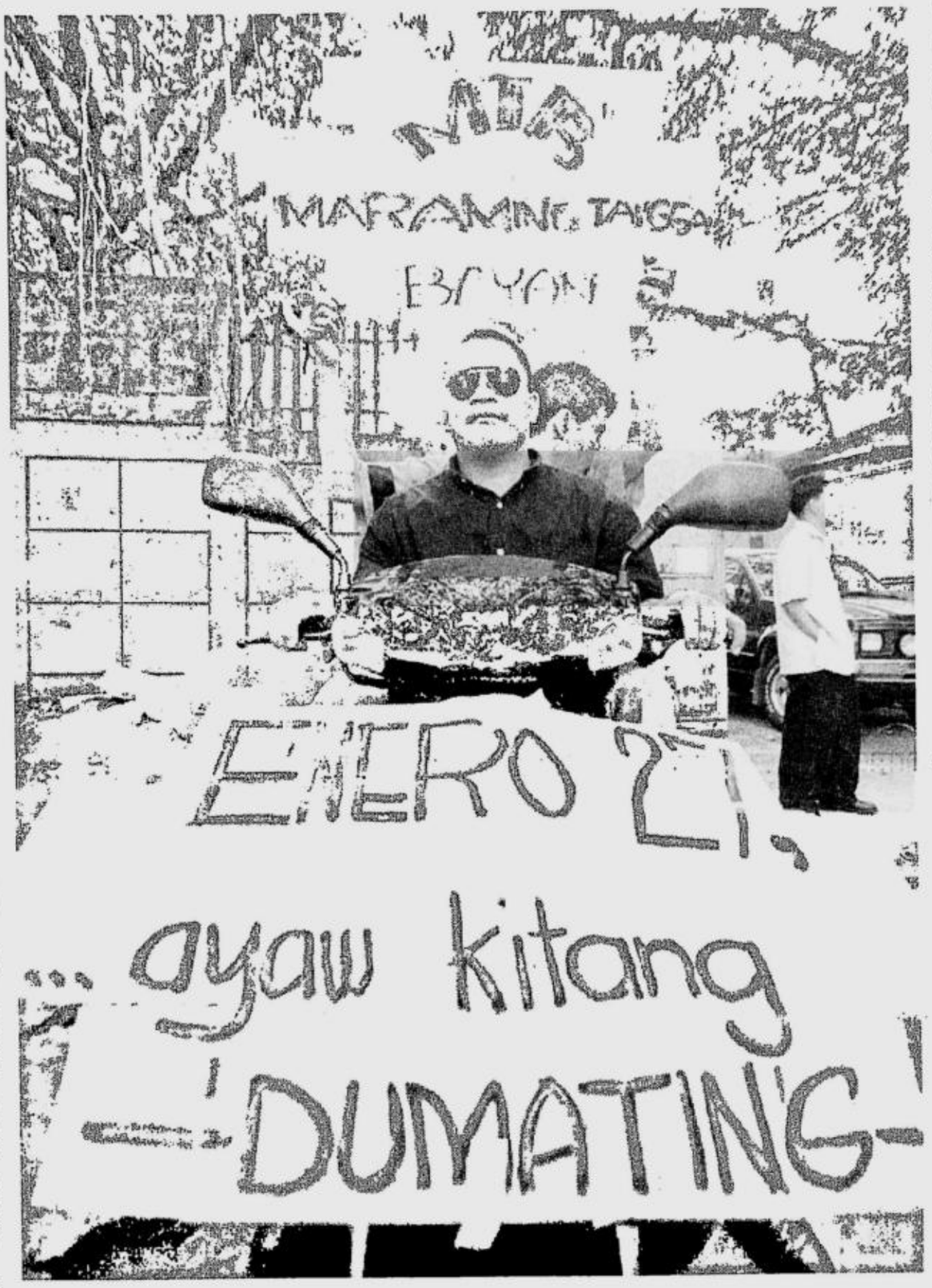
Las Piñas investigators also announced before that they were ready to file criminal charges against Doromal's group, based on their findings that it was the group that fired the shots.

But Gaarrobo said he and his men could not as yet file the case since members of Baldo's family have not shown up at the police station.

According to the NBI, Doromal was with his father's security guards when he went after the Picar brothers, after he and the Picars had a traffic altercation on Dec. 18.

At the height of their confrontation, someone fired a gun and hit Baldo who was inside Doromal's car.

The child actress died of head wounds two days later.



FEAR OF DISMISSAL
Employees of ABS-CBN joined a noise barrage and motorcade to protest the reported plan to lay off a number of them later this month. JOAN BONDOC

Residents sue Skyway operators

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

RESIDENTS of Laguna province on Thursday filed a P2.8-million damage suit against the operators of the Skyway on the South Luzon Expressway for failing to improve services in the road system while maintaining high toll rates.

In a nine-page complaint filed before a San Pedro, Laguna court, the residents, led by the Movement for Responsible Enterprise (More), demanded a refund of the new toll rates they had paid and asked the court to stop the latest round of toll increase in the Skyway system.

The Citra Metro Manila Tollway Corp. (CMMTC) "breached" its contract with motorists when it failed to fulfill its promise to cut travel time from Magallanes to Alabang through the Skyway, according to the residents who live in San Pedro, Biñan and Calamba towns.

The CMMTC is a partnership between Citra of Indonesia and the Philippine National Construction Corp., which operates the North and South Luzon expressways.

The residents said that when the CMMTC introduced the Skyway, it vowed in advertisements to reduce travel time on the Alabang-Magallanes stretch from two hours to 30 or even seven minutes.

They said the CMMTC claimed that shorter travel time would enable motorists to save on fuel cost and the maintenance of their vehicles.

It would also enable drivers and operators of public utility vehicles to make more trips and earn higher income in the process; the CMMTC had promised, according to the residents.

"Since the Skyway (was) built, traffic never eased except during holidays and non-working days," said the residents, led by Ray Junia and lawyer Fernando Perito of More.

P.5M needed to free OFW

(From page A19)

A team from OWWA had met with Mengit's family in Pampanga last month to discuss the case of Yncierto, and the Mengit family has agreed to issue a letter of forgiveness.

As a manifestation of goodwill, the OWWA promised Mengit's family P500,000. Mengit's death left his wife and three children without any form of financial support.

Nelia said she has also met Mengit's wife at the Department of Foreign Affairs twice already, and there was no anger at all on the part of Mengit's relatives.

"She said she could not blame me because we're in the same predicament," said Nelia. "We're just two women who were left behind so our husbands could find better-paying jobs abroad."

But Mengit's wife is anxious about their situation now that her husband is gone. Mengit died of stab wounds in December 2000.

The OWWA said Saudi police have yet to establish that it was indeed Yncierto who killed Mengit. Yncierto is detained and is standing trial in Riyadh.

"We support the victim's relatives in their quest for justice, but I also support Mr. Yncierto's family in their plea for mercy," Soriano said. "There's no need to kill another person."

The OWWA has so far raised only P150,000 in pledges, and it is still awaiting feedback from the President's husband Mike Arroyo and some members of Congress.

"We pray that as you helped Sarah Balabagan and Mary Jane Ramos, the good Samaritans would help another OFW," Soriano said. "It would not take a big amount to save one more life."

Soriano said the letter of forgiveness from Mengit's family would be "very, very important" to ensure that the court would not sentence Yncierto to death.

He said that in countries like Saudi, the court would hand down a decision and would then seek the approval of the victim's family of a sentence of capital punishment.

Retired Central Bank exec slain in Quezon City home

POLICE found an 85-year-old man, said to be a retired executive of the Central Bank of the Philippines, with a slashed throat in his Quezon City residence late Wednesday night.

Rizalino Mendoza Sr. was found dead in his home along Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue in Barangay Mariana, New Manila, police said.

SPO1 Fedencio Basibas said the still unidentified killer fled with the knife he used in killing the old man.

Basibas said one of the suspects was a former houseboy of Mendoza. The houseboy reportedly started working for Mendoza only a few days ago.

The investigator said Mendoza might have angered the houseboy by berating him and shouting at him.

Initial investigation showed that the killing took place about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday when Mendoza's unidentified companion was not home, leaving her employer alone with the houseboy.

When the maid returned, she reportedly found the front door locked. She and Mendoza's driver tried in vain to break down the door. They decided to call the police.

Members of the Central Police District found Mendoza dead. Basibas ruled out robbery as a motive for the killing, as no cash or valuables were found missing. *Agnes E. Donato*

Mayors want police districts abolished

BY ALCUIN PAPA

IN A move that could shake up the police hierarchy, Metro Manila mayors have asked for the abolition of the police districts in the metropolis.

In a news conference yesterday, Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay said that in the latest meeting of the Metro Manila Mayors Council last Monday, the mayors decided to make formal their request and to address it to Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina.

Lina told the mayors the move was "worth looking into," according to Binay.

"A good reason for the abolition is that there is a duplication of the functions of the police districts and the city police force," Binay said.

He said the districts only provide "another level" in the police hierarchy.

He said the mayors also agreed that if the police districts would be abolished, policemen from the districts should be transferred to city police stations.

"We can assume the operational functions of the district at our level," Binay said. "What can the districts do that policemen at the level of the city cannot?"

He pointed out that the National Capital Region Police Office already has "operational functions."

However, he clarified that the mayors agreed to retain the Central Police District which covers the whole of Quezon City, and the Western Police District which covers the city of Manila.

Aside from the Central and Western police districts, the three other police districts in the city are the Southern Police District, the Eastern Police District and the Northern Police District.

Republic Act No. 6975, the law that established the Philippine National Police, does not stipulate the creation of police districts in Metro Manila.

Binay denied that the move was meant to consolidate the mayors' hold over their policemen. He said the "duplication" of functions has made the abolition of the police districts a viable option.

He said the mayors should also be told when police officers from their police forces are transferred.

"We should be informed when they are transferred because we'd like to know the reason for their transfer," he said. "We would like to know if they were involved in criminal activities like extortion."

Two killed in Tondo

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

WHILE preparing for the Sto. Niño's feast day in Tondo, Manila, a 20-year-old man who was caught in a rumble was killed, and a 40-year-old man stabbed dead his older brother

Cezar Z. Remot, 20, of Padre Rada Street, died from several gunshot wounds during the rumble yesterday after midnight, said detective Raul O. Olavario of the Western Police District homicide section.

Gabriel P. Tolentino, 42, of Alcalde Street in Gagalangin, Tondo, died after his younger brother Modesto, 40, stabbed him during an argument Thursday night, police said.

In Remot's killing, only Michael Depaz was identified as one of the suspects involved in the rumble where Darius P. Otlang, 23, also of Padre Rada, and a 14-year-old boy were also injured, police said.

The rumble happened at 2:55 a.m. near the corner of Lakandula and Kagitingan streets, police said. Remot and his friends were setting up fiesta decorations along Lakandula Street when the suspects arrived and began throwing bottles at the group.

Police said the suspects even threw a pillbox, which fortunately did not explode. Witnesses also told police Remot and his friends went after the suspects who again pelted them with bottles. Several gunshots were fired at the height of the free-for-all, and Remot slumped to the ground bleeding from several gunshot wounds, police said.

Another shot was fired and Otlang cried in pain after a bullet hit his left hand, police said. Investigators later found out that a bullet also hit a 14-year-old.

The victims were brought to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital where Remot was declared dead on arrival, police said. His body was later brought to the Sanctuary Funeral parlor for autopsy.

In Tolentino's stabbing, his brother Modesto surrendered to police yesterday.

The stabbing happened at 7:10 p.m. at the corner of Alcalde and Callejon F. streets in Gagalangin, police said.

Earlier, the brothers argued inside their home after Modesto got drunk. Modesto got out of the house and grabbed a piece of wood, police said.

JOINT DECLARATION FOR UNITY, PEACE AND NATIONAL RENEWAL

WHEREAS, our nation and our people have long suffered the centuries-old political, economic and social difficulties and afflictions borne out of our seeming inability to erase from our psyche and culture, the colonial and neo-colonial culture which have impinged on and perverted our evolution as a nation;

WHEREAS, our people are sick and tired of the existing political system where successive changes in leadership for governance either through the classic constitutional processes or through the unique Filipino democratic exercise of sovereign will through people power have not resulted in meeting their aspirations for true independence, national sovereignty, social justice, peace and economic prosperity;

WHEREAS, we are concerned over this prevailing situation in our country where our political leaders prefer to engage in political infighting and infantile bickering for selfish ends where governance is effectively downgraded and impeded as our marginalized and dispossessed suffer daily from poverty and injustice;

WHEREAS, we are dismayed that our democratic institutions and instrumentalities such as our courts, our legislature and the constitutional bodies are being undermined by the very people empowered within to uphold, protect and make viable the ideals of governance, thus eroding our people's confidence in our future;

WHEREAS, amidst all of the above, we are being stricken by diverse external pressures such as worldwide economic slowdown, international terrorism and its domestic ramifications, and various destructive effects of globalization threatening our very survival as a nation;

WHEREAS, we are convinced that we had enough of the self-flagellation and grid lock of conflicting, albeit valid demands of the various sectors of our society, in which oftentimes only the ruling classes are able to reap the benefits at the expense of the people;

WHEREAS, it is our desire to put an end to this oppressive situation and petty bickering in order to foster unity, harmony, patriotism, and national renewal to enable us to build a strong nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the **BIGKIS PINOY (BIGKIS)** and the **REBOLUSYONARYONG ALYANSANG MAKABANSA (RAM)**, in active and earnest pursuit of effectively addressing the foregoing concerns to effect peace, unity, economic progress and national transformation, hereby jointly declare the following:

- THAT we call on all patriots and all organized groups to include political parties, to join us in coming together in the spirit of unity and peace to form a true national concensus in our policies and programs upon which national governance will be based, and which reconciles conflicting claims and rationalizes national priorities within the context of democratic and non-violent processes;

- THAT our leaders in executive and legislative branches of government at all levels actuate as true advocates and implementers of people-centered policies and programs;

- THAT our public servants in the judiciary and the constitutional bodies be genuinely independent from partisan politics, honest, competent, and efficient in the dispensation of justice and their mandated duties;

- THAT our armed forces be truly made professional, committed to the principle of civilian supremacy over the military, and truly act as the protectors of the people and the state at all times;

We call on our fellow Filipinos to be bonded in hope, determination and hard work to strive for good governance, economic development and political stability.

We call on all our leaders to prioritize the people's interest over their personal political interests and work together towards realizing national progress!

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Dolphin trainer wants Subic dolphins freed

By Nini Valera

THERE are more than 1,000 dolphins known to be in captivity, and 4 of them are in the Philippines and are the main attraction at the Ocean Adventures Park at Camayan Wharf in the Naval Magazine area in Subic.

But Richard O' Barry, formerly a world famous dolphin trainer who taught television's Flipper its cute tricks, wants to liberate the Subic dolphins from their watery grave.

Even if he cannot do this himself because "it's up to the Filipino people and the Philippine government" to free the dolphins, O'Barry is in the country to talk to local veterinarians, students and environment officials to apprise them of the cruelty of keeping dolphins in a pen in the guise of "education."

"I am here to be the spark plug of a movement that hopefully would free these dolphins," O'Barry said on Thursday night during a private showing of rescue work on dolphins held captive in Nicaragua, Peru, Guatemala and Brazil.

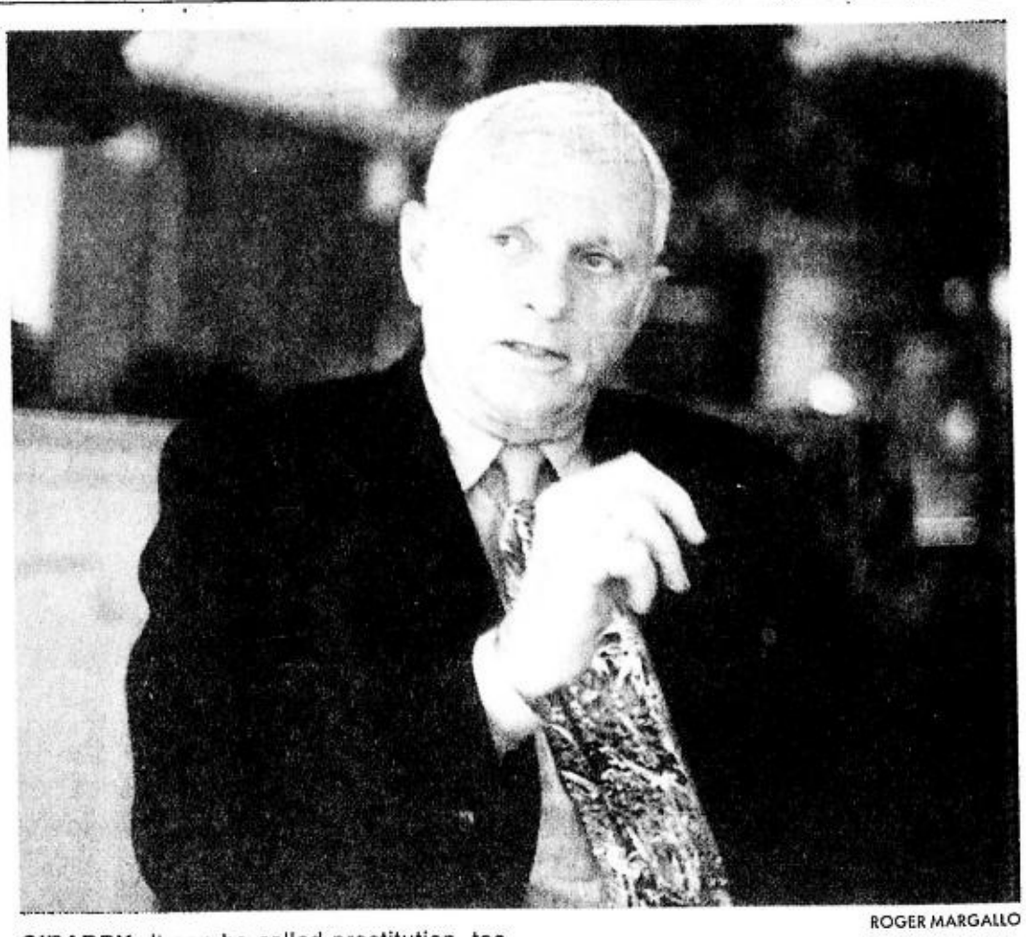
Trainer vs trainer

Tomorrow, O'Barry and representatives of Earth Island Institute-Philippines Inc. and Philippine Animal Welfare Society, Inc. will go to the controversial theme park in Subic and find out the state of the dolphins' health in their unnatural captivity.

Envisioned to be the crowd drawers, the dolphins perform to please the audience and supposedly give them an "educational" experience, including the chance to swim and frolic with them for an additional fee on top of the P400 entrance fee to the theme park.

In their attempt to free the dolphins, O'Barry and Mark Berman, animal rights activist and assistant director of the International Marine Mammal Project based in San Francisco, California, will be up against an old nemesis, Timothy Desmond, himself a world-class dolphin trainer.

Desmond was responsible for importing the Subic dolphins from the dolphin-drive fisheries in Japan, which animal rights activists have condemned as a brutal and bloody practice of catching the sea mammals. He also heads the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium, which owns and operates Ocean Adventures Park in Subic.



ROGER MARGALLO

O'BARRY: It can be called prostitution, too.

Already a respondent in a criminal case filed against SBME by local environmental and animal rights groups, Desmond appeared to have wriggled out of reach of the law through legal loopholes. He succeeded in completing the Subic theme park, which is now open to the public, despite a cease and desist order the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued last year.

Cathy's suicide

Why O'Barry, now fiftysomething, has taken the cudgels for dolphins, which he used to capture and train for shows as in the popular '70s television series "Flipper," is a story of sin against the gentle sea creature and redemption of the captor.

"I knew back then that it was wrong but I just didn't do anything about it," said O'Barry. "We're talking about a lot of money here. I walked away from that. I could have stayed. (Dolphin shows) are a billion-dollar industry. I would buy a new Porsche every year. Now, I would buy a new bicycle every five years."

But when Cathy, the female dolphin that played Flipper for seven years, died in his arms, O'Barry was transformed.

"She swam to me, looked me in the eye and decided not to take the next breath," recalled O'Barry, who had written about Cathy's death in his first book, "Behind the Dolphin Smile."

Cathy committed suicide, he said.

"I've seen these so many times, in so many places," he said. "Usually, they lie on the surface of the water. I call it captive dolphin depression syndrome...I coined that phrase. It comes from isolation. Dolphins are isolated in a cage, and they're very social creatures. At that point, they can choose not to take the next breath. Breathing to them is a conscious effort. That's what Cathy did; she never took another breath."

Depressed

O'Barry said he tried to revive her, but Cathy had wanted to die. The Flipper series had ended the year before Cathy died, and she was separated from O'Barry for the first time in seven years.

"She became very depressed," he said. "In between shows, you can see them very depressed especially if they're in isolation. That's what killed her really."

Suicide, pneumonia, liver ailment, respiratory infection, drowning are among the most common reasons for dolphin death while in captivity, according to O'Barry.

While the cause of death of one of the five dolphins Desmond had brought to Subic from Japan was never known, it is almost certain that it did not die from old age. SBME veterinarian Dr. Christopher Torno had given strict instructions not to let any non-government organization investigate the dolphin's death last July 30.

Even if the four other dolphins in Subic live, O'Barry said he is almost sure that they are suffering. The best thing that could happen to these dolphins is to rehabilitate them and set them free, he said. O'Barry also proposes that once liberated and rehabilitated, the Subic dolphins could become ambassadors promoting the release of other dolphins in captivity and campaigning against drive fishing in Japan.

"These dolphins are Japanese," O'Barry noted. "They were captured from a drive-fishery in Japan. If they're released, I would rehabilitate them and bring them back to Japan."

Violence

Describing drive fishing from the dolphins' point of view, O'Barry said that capturing a dolphin was a violent procedure.

"I know that because I've captured hundreds of them," he said. "It's kinda like rape. What they're doing in Subic Bay, the close, hand's-on encounter with an exotic creature for money...what does that sound like? Prostitution, it could be called that, too. They're trying to sell it as an educational experience and it is. Unfortunately, it's a form of bad education. The only thing children will learn is that it's okay to abuse nature as long as we call it education, research or science. With those three words, you can get away with anything."

O'Barry said it would be a better form of education for children if they were to see him trying to set free the dolphins. Even if he fails, the children still need to see him trying to free the dolphins, he said.

"Children learn everything by mimicking their parents," he said. "That's how we learn things, so our children need to see us trying to free them, even if we fail. And that's a very positive educational experience."

Like the Abu Sayyaf hostages, the Subic dolphins are like hostages themselves, he noted.

"It's difficult to free the hostages the Abu Sayyaf kidnapped, but it's not that difficult to free these (dolphins) hostages," he said. "We know where they are."

He claimed to have had lots of victories already, but admitted that freeing all captured dolphins around the world would be a long battle. Now, that battle is going to be fought in the Philippines.

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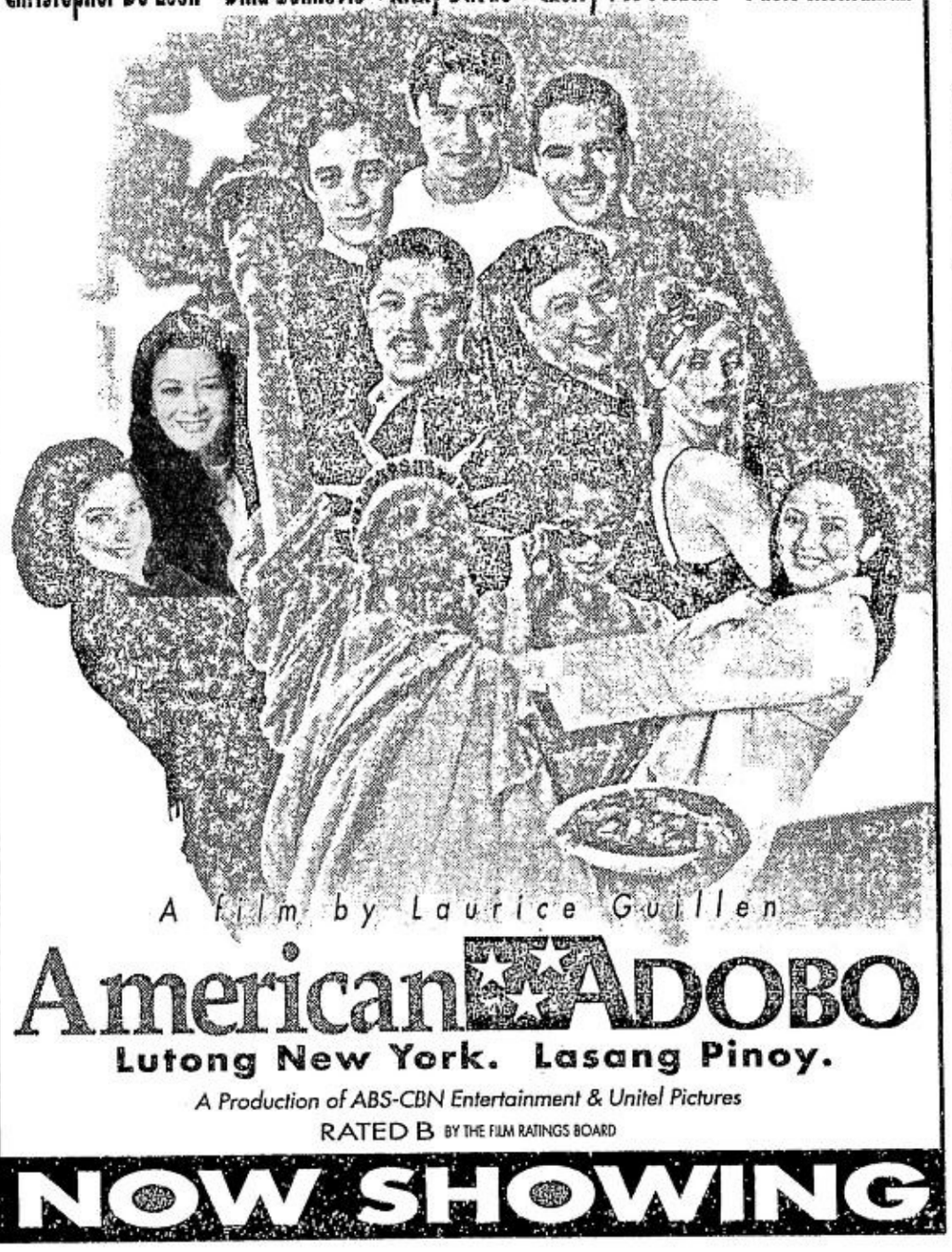
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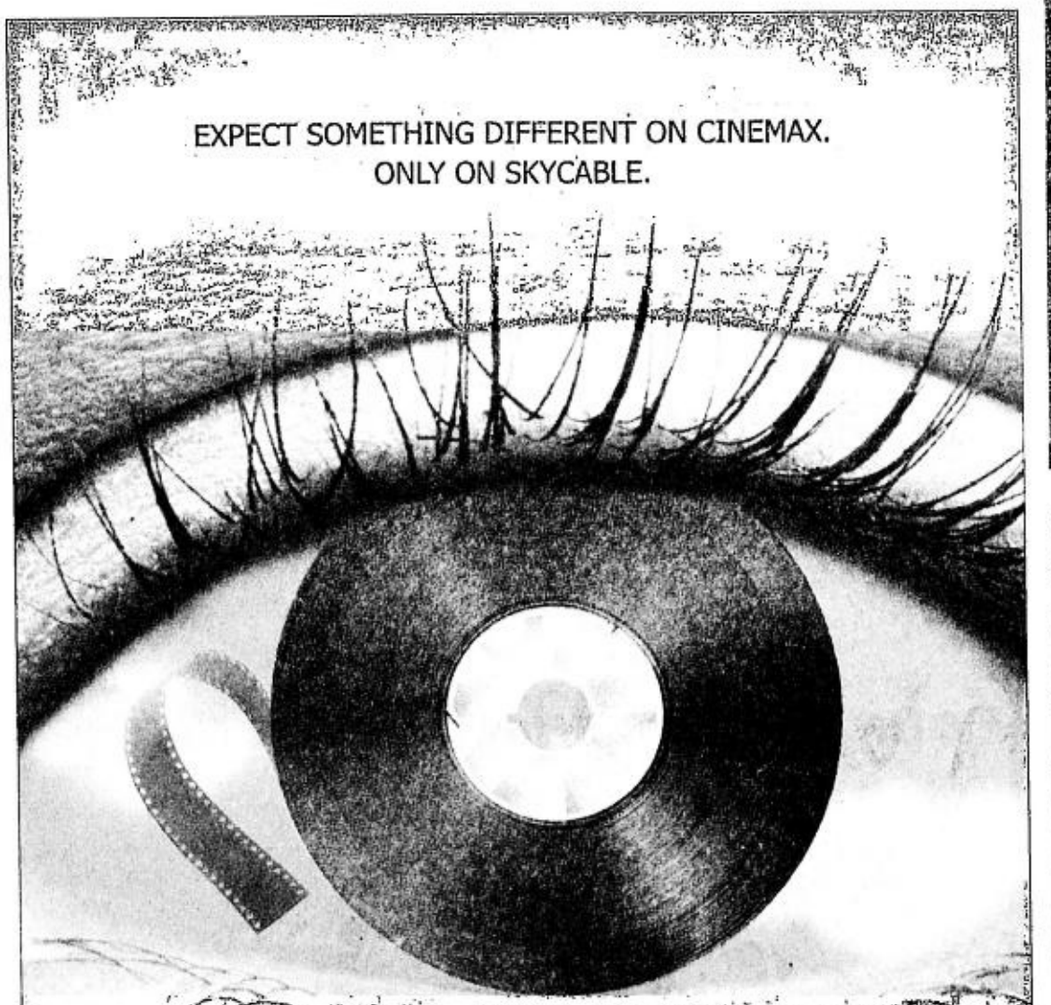
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AMERICAN ADOBO - R18 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:20, 10:40, 11:30
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Where order... The Hardtks and Reckless Kids and Bad Boys
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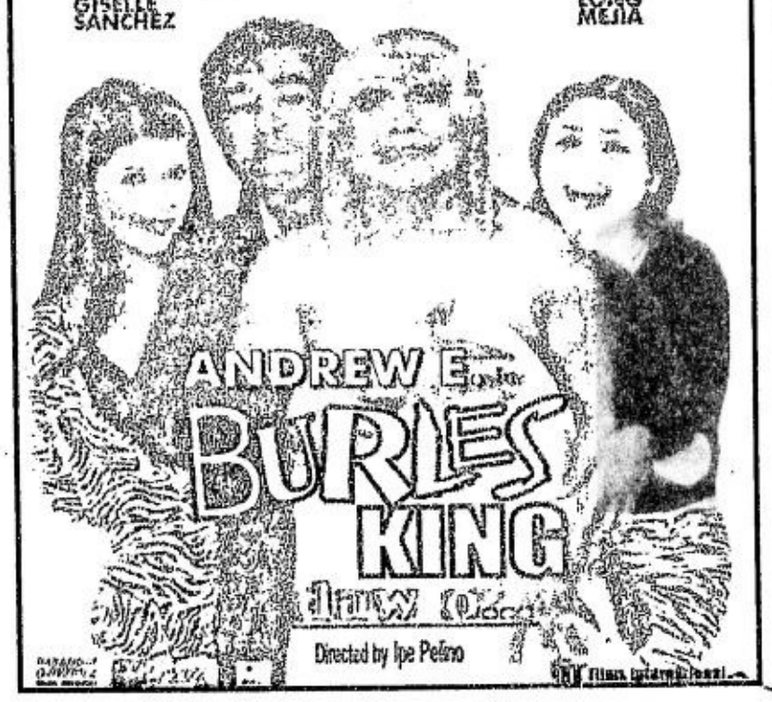
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
GENEVA CRUZ
JANETTE MCBRIDE
GISELLE SANCHEZ
LONG MEJIA

ANDREW E.
BURLES KING
Directed by Ipe Pedro

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

CHEAP AND FAKE

As the campaign against film piracy continued, so did the selling of pirated VCDs, such as in many stalls in Manila. Just before Christmas, for example, copies of the pirated version of the popular movie "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" sold briskly.

ALLIANCE VS PIRACY

Philippine Multi-Media Systems Inc. (PMSI) chief executive officer Cesar Reyes signs the anti-piracy alliance program manifesto, witnessed by government officials and representatives of TV program content providers. The alliance is led by PMSI and its broadcast arm, DreamTV, the country's first direct-to-home satellite TV service provider.

Shooting cop nabbed through '117'

A TIMELY call to hotline 117 alerted members of the Western Police District who were able to arrest a retired policeman for allegedly shooting a jeepney driver who had a fistfight with the suspect's son in Tondo, Manila Monday morning.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina identified the suspect as Manuel Cruz, 57, a retired policeman formerly assigned at the Ermita police station, and the victim as Abelardo Vivar, 48, of Almeda Street, Tondo.

A report submitted by Supt. Filipino Amoguis, executive director of the Patrol 117 Commission, said the incident took place when Vivar and Cruz's son Rodemar, who were then having separate drinking sessions in the neighborhood, had an argument and then a fistfight after the former allegedly asked for some *pulutan* from the group of Rodemar.

The report said the elder Cruz, upon learning of the fistfight between Vivar and his son, shot Vivar pointblank.

Vivar's wife Elizabeth called 117 to seek assistance. The 117 operator who received the call relayed the call to WPD Police Station 2 which contacted the P. Algus Police Community Precinct.

It took less than six minutes for the responding officers to reach the area and arrest the suspect, who is now detained at the Moriones Tondo police station. He is awaiting charges of frustrated homicide.

But police failed to confiscate the cal. .38 pistol used in the shooting.

Joseph, 81

ROBERT M. Joseph Sr. died last Jan. 17 at the Makati Medical Center. He was 81.

He is survived by his wife Florencia Favis Lim, children Bobby, Ralph, Ronnie and Raymond, daughters-in-law Ida Manalo, Babot Munoz, Melisa de Leon and Reggie Arbo and grandchildren.

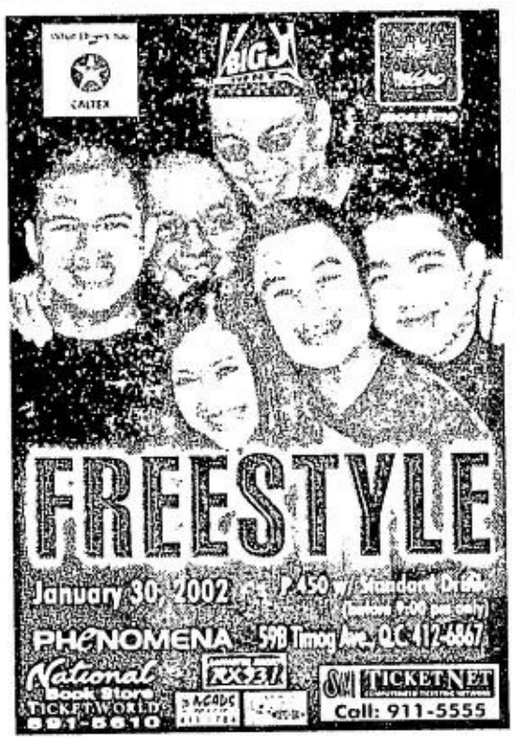
His cremated remains are at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church on McKinley Road in Forbes Park, Makati City.

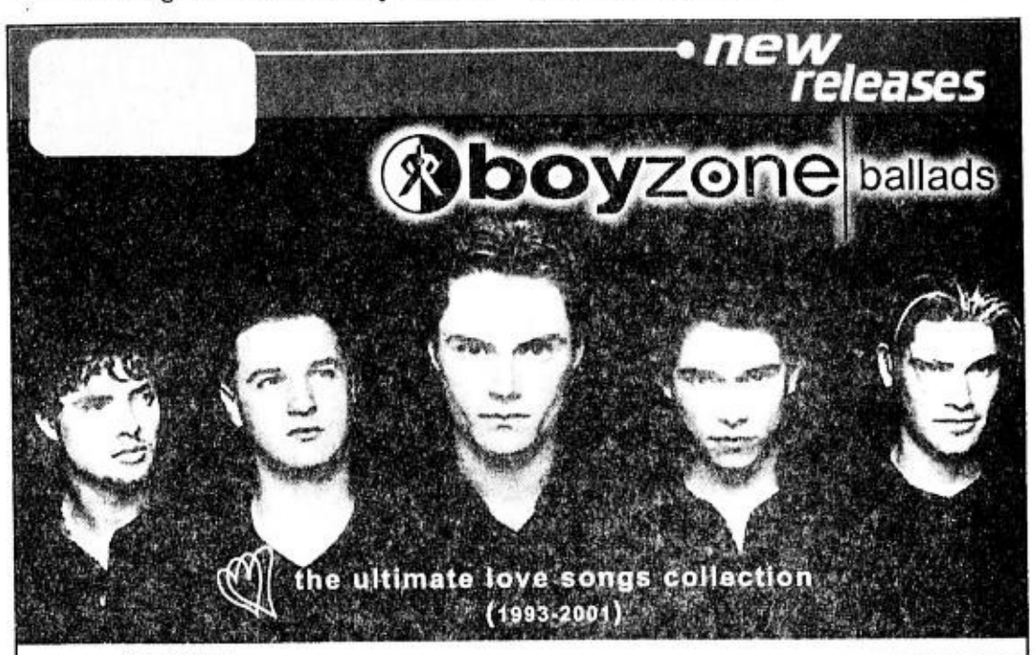
Canyon Woods Sto. Niño fiesta

CANYON Woods Residential Resort in Laurel, Batangas will hold a fiesta honoring the Sto. Niño today at the Holy Name of the Child Jesus Chapel.

Fr. Rene Ramos will celebrate Mass. The chapel is under the jurisdiction of his parish and belongs to the Archdiocese of Lipa headed by Bishop Gaudencio Rosales.

Hermano mayor is Canyon Woods CEO and president George Go. Vegetable produce from the nearby farms will be spread on the church grounds. Fireworks will follow a short procession around the resort. A get-together dinner of homeowners and their guests will be held after the fireworks.





Youths call for new voter registration

MANILA'S youth leaders on Thursday called on the Commission on Elections to hold a special day of registration for new voters in the Sangguniang Kabataan elections scheduled this May 6.

Ryan Ponce, 24, outgoing SK chair of Barangay 460 in Sampaloc, said the registration period held on Dec. 10 to 26 last year was not successful because it was not preceded by an adequate information campaign.

"There should have been massive information drive as many of our constituents who have turned 18 and are eligible to vote as of December last year weren't aware of the registration," Ponce said. *Jerome Aning*

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2 ZOOLANDER (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	6 AMERICAN ADOBO (DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND)	2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES (SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND)	2 THE LORD OF THE RINGS (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)
3 AMERICAN ADOBO (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES (DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	7 SPY GAMES (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	3 AMERICAN ADOBO (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)
4 THE LORD OF THE RINGS (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	4 THE LORD OF THE RINGS (DTS DIGITAL SOUND) Art Film		4 WEEKEND W/ POPS JAN. 18, 19, 25 & 26 - 9:00 PM Onstage	4 SPY GAMES (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)
				5 ZOOLANDER (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)

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1 LORD OF THE RING
2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3 LORD OF THE RING
4 SPY GAMES
5 AMERICAN ADOBO
6 ZOOLANDER
7 GLASS HOUSE
8 ON THE LINE
9 BUKO PANDAN
10 BURLESK KING

ERMITA (536-7809 TO 12)	METRO EAST (632-9118-19 / 633-7041)
1 LORD OF THE RING	1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 BUKO PANDAN	2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3 BURLESK KING	3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 SPY GAMES	4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 AMERICAN ADOBO	5 SPY GAMES
6 BEHIND ENEMY LINES	6 BUKO PANDAN
7 ZOOLANDER	7 ZOOLANDER
	8 BURLESK KING

NOVALICHES (633-3220 TO 31)	IMUS (046) 471-0180
1 BEHIND ENEMY LINES	1 LORD OF THE RINGS
2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES	2 ZOOLANDER
3 LORD OF THE RING	3 AMERICAN ADOBO
4 ZOOLANDER	4 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 SPY GAMES	5 BURLESK KING
6 BURLESK KING	6 BUKO PANDAN
7 BUKO PANDAN	
8 AMERICAN ADOBO	

BACOLOD (034) 441-0459 / 0460	ILOILO (033) 336-0077 / 0079
1 SPY GAMES	1 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2 BAGONG BUWAN	2 WOLF GIRL
3 AMERICAN ADOBO	3 SAPAGKAT KAMI'Y TAO
4 DREAM GIRL	4 ON THE LINE
5 SUSMARYOSEP (4 FATHERS)	5 2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
6 WOLF GIRL	6 MUSKETEERS

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SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

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1 BUKO PANDAN	1 SPY GAMES
2 ZOOLANDER	2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 LORD OF THE RINGS	3 BUKO PANDAN
4 BURLESK KING	4 BURLESK KING
5 BEHIND ENEMY LINES	5 AMERICAN ADOBO
6 AMERICAN ADOBO	6 ZOOLANDER
7 HUBOG	7 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8 BAGONG BUWAN	8 LORD OF THE RINGS
	9 YAMASHITA
	10 BAGONG BUWAN
	11 HUBOG
	12 ON THE LINE

SM CENTERPOINT (7149522 -7161416)
1 BURLESK KING
2 ZOOLANDER
3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 BUKO PANDAN
5 LORD OF THE RINGS
6 HUBOG
7 SPY GAMES
8 LORD OF THE RINGS
9 AMERICAN ADOBO
10 BAGONG BUWAN

SM SOUTHMALL (806-6888 / 806-6782)
1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 SPY GAMES
3 ZOOLANDER
4 GLASS HOUSE
5 BAGONG BUWAN
6 HUBOG
7 BURLESK KING
8 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
9 LORD OF THE RINGS
10 BUKO PANDAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW (9350749)
1 HUBOG
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 WALANG IWANAN
4 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 AMERICAN ADOBO
6 BURLESK KING
7 LORD OF THE RINGS
8 ZOOLANDER
9 SPY GAMES
10 BAGONG BUWAN
11 ON THE LINE
12 BUKO PANDAN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L (8820905)
1 BUKO PANDAN
2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3 BURLESK KING

SM CEBU (2313876)
1 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3 GLASS HOUSE
4 SPY GAMES
5 GIRL FEVER
6 BRO
7 WALANG IWANAN

SM CITY MANILA (5239240)
1 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2 SPY GAMES
3 ZOOLANDER
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 ON THE LINE
6 LORD OF THE RINGS
7 BUKO PANDAN
8 GLASS HOUSE
9 AMERICAN ADOBO
10 BAGONG BUWAN
11 HUBOG
12 BURLESK KING

SM ILOILO (3209422)
1 2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
2 CLOSED
3 MUSKETEERS
4 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 WOLF GIRL
6 ON THE LINE
7 CLOSED
8 SAPAGKAT KAMI'Y TAO

SM MEGAMALL (6331901 • 6329401)
1 LORD OF THE RINGS
2 SPY GAMES
3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 GLASS HOUSE
6 ZOOLANDER
7 BUKO PANDAN
8 HUBOG
9 BURLESK KING
10 AMERICAN ADOBO
11 BAGONG BUWAN
12 ON THE LINE

SM PAMPANGA (7128015)
1 LORD OF THE RINGS
2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3 SPY GAMES
4 AMERICAN ADOBO
5 DI KITA MA-REACH
6 BURLESK KING

SM SUCAT (6294975)
1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3 LORD OF THE RINGS
4 BURLESK KING

SM TUTUBAN (2514302)
1 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2 AMERICAN ADOBO
3 BUKO PANDAN
4 BURLESK KING

SM DAVAO
1 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2 AMERICAN ADOBO
3 GIRL FEVER
4 BAGONG BUWAN
5 BRO
6 SPY GAMES

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1 (DDS)	GLASS HOUSE
2 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 GOLD (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
6 GOLD (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
8	AMERICAN ADOBO
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	BURLESK KING

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	BURLESK KING
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	PANINDA
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BURLESK KING
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BURLESK KING
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	BUKO PANDAN

METROPOLIS star
Tel. 850 4285

1	WALANG IWANAN
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BUKO PANDAN
5	BURLESK KING
6	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA (Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TATARIN
2	SPY GAMES

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	RESERVE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
A	BUKO PANDAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	WALANG IWANAN
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	BUKO PANDAN
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	SPY GAMES
5	BURLESK KING
6	AMERICAN ADOBO
7 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
9 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BUKO PANDAN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BURLESK KING
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4 (SDDS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	HUBOG
6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 (DTS)	ZOOLANDER
8	BAGONG BUWAN
9	WALANG IWANAN

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
6	BURLESK KING
7 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	HUBOG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BURLESK KING
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BUKO PANDAN
5 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BURLESK KING

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BURLESK KING

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

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Lords	BUKO PANDAN
Jennet	RESERVE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BURLESK KING
3	BUKO PANDAN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	BURLESK KING

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4	BURLESK KING
5	LORD OF THE RINGS

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BUKO PANDAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BURLESK KING

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BURLESK KING
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BURLESK KING
2 (DTS)	AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	ZOOLANDER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2 (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BURLESK KING

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	HUBOG
2	MUSKETEERS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
(Tarlac)

1	BURLESK KING
2	WALANG IWANAN
3 (DOLBY)	THE SCORE
4 (DTS)	SPY GAMES

Lianas Cinema
(Alaminos) tel 850.3276

1 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BURLESK KING
4 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3 (DTS)	BURLESK KING
4	GIRL FEVER
5	

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ZOOLANDER
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2556

1	ZOOLANDER
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1	WALANG IWANAN
2	HUBOG
3	2 PISNGI NG LANGIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BURLESK KING
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SAPAGKAT KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	WALANG IWANAN
3	BURLESK KING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	WALANG IWANAN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 (DTS DS)	BURLESK KING

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BURLESK KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	AMERICAN ADOBO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ZOOLANDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BAGONG BUWAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SPY GAME
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BUKO PANDAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG / BEDROOM SECRET
ODEON	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
ODEON-2	BURLESK KING
ROBEN	BUKO PANDAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE HOLE / EARTHQUAKE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR-2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BURLESK KING
B	BUKO PANDAN
C	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-2	BUKO PANDAN
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BURLESK KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
CINEMA-12	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-14	SPY GAME
CINEMA-15	AMERICAN ADOBO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SPY GAME
CINEMA-2	ZOOLANDER
CINEMA-3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN ADOBO
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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Rolling coffins' days are numbered, says DOTC

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications is giving old and dilapidated public utility vehicles plying Metro Manila's streets one month to get off the road.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez told reporters in a briefing on Thursday that one month is enough time for owners of the "rolling coffins" to "comply with standards or face revocation of their franchises."

Alvarez stressed the DOTC will be very strict in enforcing this directive since these vehicles often figure in accidents on the road because of their state.

"What is dangerous about poorly maintained units is that they become agents of death, causing the demise of innocent passengers and bystanders," Alvarez said.

He noted most of the vehicles not only have dilapidated exteriors, they also have faulty brake systems that can fail anytime and result in accidents.

He also said government vehicles are not exempt from the rule.

Alvarez stressed it is important for owners of public utility vehicles to comply to this rule because they are the ones serving the general public.

"Jeepneys will not be hard hit by this (rule) as most jeepneys are well maintained," Alvarez said. "The buses will be the ones likely to be most affected."

Law enforcers from the Land Transportation Office will be on the lookout for these vehicles. But Alvarez admitted the LTO lacked the personnel to do this.

"The LTO really lacks law enforcers," he said.

"Our plan is to cooperate with different government agencies so we can focus on respective areas. This way, we can work as a team to properly enforce what has to be enforced."

Before a vehicle can be registered with the LTO, it has to pass certain tests that will determine the roadworthiness of the vehicle. If a vehicle will be deemed dilapidated, it will not be registered.

If caught, owners of poorly maintained vehicles that managed to pass the LTO's scrutiny will face revocation of their public franchises by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

For Munti minors, streets are off limits round midnight

By Christian V. Esguerra

STARTING Feb. 10, minors aged 17 years and below will be barred from going out in the streets between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m., as prescribed by the curfew ordinance approved by the Muntinlupa city council.

The local government has formed the Barangay Curfew Hour Enforcement Council to implement the new ordinance in each of Muntinlupa's nine barangays.

The council is composed of barangay captains, Sangguniang Kabataan chairpersons, representatives of business and religious organizations, presidents of parents-teachers associations, and heads of homeowners associations.

Minors may go out in the streets only in "extreme emergency cases and abnormal conditions."

All violators will be required to undergo an orientation on the importance of the curfew ordinance.

First time offenders will render two-hour community service, while those who will be caught for the second and third time will do community work for four hours and eight hours, respectively.

Frequent violators will be sent to institutions such as Nayon ng Kabataan or Marilac Hills.

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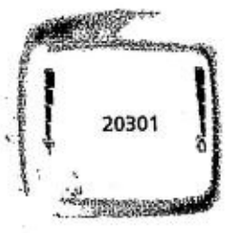

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

11-month trade surplus down 61.4%

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

PHILIPPINE merchandise imports dropped 23.6 percent in November from a year earlier to $2.039 billion—the worst contraction since December 1998, the National Statistics Office (NSO) said yesterday.

It said total imports for the first 11 months of the year slumped by 6 percent to $27.408 billion.

The country's trade surplus in the first 11 months of the year fell by 61.4 percent to $2.097 billion in the face of a sharp drop in exports caused by the lower demand for electronic products abroad, the NSO said.

Electronics and components were the country's largest import in November, amounting to $327.08 million or 16 percent of the total. However, the November figure was down 43.8 percent from the same period in the previous year.

Telecommunications equipment and electrical machinery were the second largest import, amounting to $249.23 million or 12.2 percent.

Japan was the largest source of Philippine imports in November, accounting $455 million or 22.3 percent of the total, the NSO said. The United States was second with 13.2 percent or $269.2 million.

The NSO said the contraction in the country's expenditure for imported goods in November worsened from the 16.9 percent year-on-year drop in October.

The decline in November imports was steeper than the 20.7-percent drop in export earnings to $2.63 billion during the same period, thus allowing the country to post a trade surplus of $591 million. Total merchandise trade for the period slowed down by 22 percent to $4.67 billion.

National Economic and Development Authority deputy director general Gilbert Llanto said the decline in imports, which was weighed down by the continued drop in electronics and components, followed the general slowdown in the export sector.

"When exports go down, imports go down in sympathy because our biggest exports are import-dependent," Llanto said.

"But the way we see it, it is beginning to bottom out and if the recovery in the US economy happens in the first quarter, we'll see a rebound," he said.

Payment for electronics and components, which accounted for 16 percent or the biggest share of the bill, shrunk by 16 percent from a year-ago and 10.9 percent from a month-ago.

On the other hand, purchases of telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery rose by a robust 20.1 percent, accounting for 12.2 percent of the total bill.

Expenditures for mineral fuels, lubricant and related materials likewise fell by 49.6 percent.

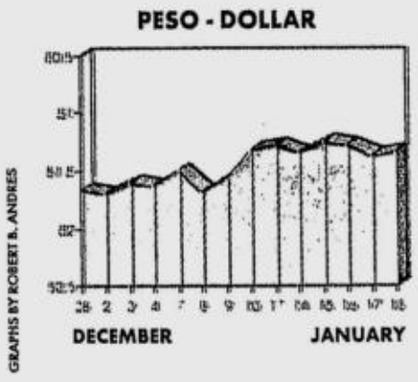
Overall, capital goods accounted for 41.4 percent of the total bill but declined by 12.8 percent. Telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery are part of this category.

Payments for raw materials and intermediate goods consisting of unprocessed raw materials and semi-processed raw materials accounted for 36.8 percent of the total bill but declined by 27.3 percent.

Purchases of mineral fuel and lubricant and consumer goods also dropped by 49.6 percent and 2.8 percent, respectively.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 51.340 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 18, 2002

¥ 132.82 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 18, 2002

GOLD:$284.20/284.70

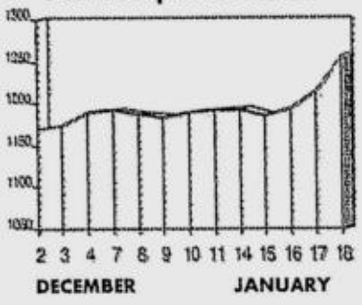
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 18, 2002

Jan. 18, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US$	Foreign currency In Peso
United States	Dollar	1.134945	1.000000	51.3490
Japan	Yen	0.008562	0.007544	0.3874
United Kingdom	Pound	1.629781	1.436000	73.7372
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145693	0.128370	6.5917
Switzerland	Franc	0.681280	0.600276	30.8236
Canada	Dollar	0.704585	0.620810	31.8780
Singapore	Dollar	0.618836	0.545256	27.9984
Australia	Dollar	0.582920	0.513611	26.3734
Bahrain	Dinar	3.010624	2.652661	136.2115
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303462	0.267380	13.7297
Brunei	Dollar	0.618161	0.544662	27.9678
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000109	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025877	0.022800	1.1708
UAE	Dirham	0.309081	0.272331	13.9839
Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000765	0.0393
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.881100	45.2436
Brazil	Real	0.464455	0.423729	21.7581
Denmark	Kroner	0.134541	0.118593	6.0896
India	Rupee	0.023165	0.020747	1.0653
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.294235	0.263227	13.5164
Mexico	New Peso	0.121262	0.109709	5.6334
New Zealand	Dollar	0.473665	0.422654	21.7029
Norway	Kroner	0.125699	0.111669	5.7341
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018679	0.016667	0.8558
South Africa	Rand	0.097808	0.087681	4.5023
Sweden	Kroner	0.108132	0.095374	4.8974
Syria	Pound	0.021877	0.022883	1.1750
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032006	0.028645	1.4709
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001466	0.001311	0.0673

STOCK MARKET

Shares close at 4-month high



SHARES closed at their highest level yesterday since the Sept. 11 attacks, buoyed by increased foreign interest in the market and growing hopes that fundamentally sound corporates will post improved earnings this year as the economy recovers, traders said.

The main index closed up 43.38 points, or 3.57 percent, at 1,257.48 points, its highest close for the year and the strongest finish since Sept. 11, when it ended at 1,294.09. The attacks in the United States on that day took place after the market closed and there was a sharp decline in subsequent days.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Over this week, the index was up a hefty 5.5 percent.

The central bank's decision to cut overnight rates and banks' liquidity reserves also helped perk up sentiment in interest rate-sensitive property and banks stocks.

"We had the recent bond offering (the government sold $750 million of 15-year global notes last week) which went very successfully and perhaps foreigners are starting to take a look at this market again . . . it's been a laggard regional market (since Sept. 11) and they may be thinking it's a place where they can get good returns," said Vincent Lazatin, vice president of fund management firm World Wide Investment Management Co. of the Philippines Inc.

With interest rates easing and the peso relatively stable for now, investors were looking at shifting some of their funds out of the fixed income and currency markets and into equities, online brokerage 2TradeAsia.com's research head Grace Cerdenia said. *Reuters*

Mirant energizes Aurora province

MIRANT Philippines Corp. inaugurated recently the electrification of five barangays in Baler, Aurora Province.

Located in one of the poorest areas of the province, barangays Toytoyan, Dibutunan, Cuzo, Diagyan and Dinlog represent the first batch of barangays energized by Mirant Philippines under its 1000 Barangay Electrification Assistance for the Countryside (Project Beacon). This program, carried out by its social development arm—Mirant Philippines Foundation—is in support of the Department of Energy's O-llaw Program that aims to electrify all of the 41,999 barangays nationwide by the year 2006.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. led the ceremonial switch-on. He was joined by Aurora Province Gov. Ramoncita P. Ong, Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, National Electrification Administrator Francisco Silva, and Mirant Philippines president Edgardo Bautista.

SEC issues CDO on Multitel

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has re-issued a cease-and-desist order against Multinational Telecom Investors Corp. after finding out that the company was continuing its alleged illegal operations involving the offer and sale of unregistered securities to the public.

Early last year, the SEC had issued a CDO against Multitel for its unauthorized acceptance of investments or borrowing from the public but lifted the order in July after Multitel paid a fine and filed an affidavit attesting that it had officially reduced the number of its lenders to 10.

Multitel, as a lending investor, can only borrow funds from no more than 19 lenders but the SEC had found that Multitel had 238 investors, in violation of the limitation on its corporate charter. Moreover, borrowing from more than 19 constituted deposit-taking, a quasi-banking activity which only institutions duly licensed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas can undertake.

In its latest CDO issued Jan. 15, the SEC said a subsequent examination of the books and records of Multitel and related companies in September showed that the lending investor had 12 listed lenders.

"Multitel does not allow individual investors to invest directly. Instead, individual investments in Multitel are coursed through the lenders to make it appear that Multitel's investors do not exceed 19," the SEC noted.

Gov't to cut inflation goal for '02

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to scale down its inflation target for this year to a range of 4-5 percent from the original target of 5-6 percent in view of the continued softening of consumer prices and the improved economic environment.

In a press briefing yesterday, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said, however, that any change in the inflation target would still have to be approved by the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee, for better coordination with monetary authorities.

Since the start of the year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has adopted an inflation-targeting policy, which means that its monetary management is now geared toward the attainment of the official inflation target instead of focusing on other indicators like foreign exchange or interest rates.

The DBCC is composed of the Neda, the BSP, the Department of

GOV'T/ B2

CURRENCY CONVERSION DEADLINE

People with banknotes from 12 countries of the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) have until Jan. 25 this year to convert these into pesos at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. The BSP started accepting these currencies for conversion to pesos since Oct. 1, 2001. The currencies are: Austrian schilling, Belgian franc, Finnish markka, French franc, Deutsche mark, Greek drachma, Irish punt, Italian lire, Luxembourg franc, Netherlands guilder, Portuguese escudo, and Spanish peseta (Spain). These countries are retiring their national currencies in lieu of a single European currency called the euro. The new currency became legal tender last Jan. 1. After Jan. 25, 2002, bearers of these currencies are advised to send these directly to the country of origin for redemption.

Conversion of Bataan nuke plant studied

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE GOVERNMENT is in talks with foreign firms on a possible feasibility study on converting the mothballed Bataan nuclear power plant.

Philippine National Oil Co. president Thelmo Cunanan said in an interview yesterday that the government planned to do a study on whether the $2.1-billion facility could be "repowered."

"It's a pity because we are servicing P3 billion a year for it and it's not even producing a single megawatt of power," Cunanan said.

He said they have had initial discussions with firms which have shown interest, but that there was nothing final yet.

"If new technologies are available to make feasible (the conversion of the plant), then I think that should be an option (to be pursued)," the PNOC chief said.

According to the energy department, the government is also looking for alternative uses of the nuclear facility for the emerging local natural gas industry.

Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. had said that he was encouraging any private firm which may have interest in converting the 620-megawatt nuclear facility into one that uses gas turbines.

Perez said there were previous offers from at least two foreign firms for the conversion project.

He said the energy department would welcome initiatives from the firms should they decide to revive their offers.

"The (Bataan nuclear complex) is also a possible location for a liquefied natural gas terminal," Perez noted.

The secretary said he would look at every possibility just to have some use for the Bataan plant.

"It's such a waste if it would stay mothballed," he added.

The Bataan plant was never commissioned due to the controversy that enveloped the deal—$80 million in alleged kickbacks that US-based contractor Westinghouse paid to then President Marcos and his cronies, and the overpriced cost of its lone reactor.

Because of this, the $2.1-billion loan obtained to build the BNPP was touted not only as the single biggest foreign debt incurred during the Marcos administration but also the biggest loan anomaly.

3 thrift banks express interest in Unitrust

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THREE thrift banks have expressed interest to acquire and merge with closed Unitrust Development Bank, the bank's receiver said yesterday.

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Norberto Nazareno said the three thrift banks have written to PDIC expressing their interest in Unitrust, itself a thrift bank with 13 branches including its head office.

Nazareno declined to identify the three thrift banks but said these were medium-sized savings banks.

Unitrust has about P700 million in assets. It was closed early this month by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as soon as the bank's management declared a bank holiday following the massive resignation of officers and personnel that triggered a bank run of P138 million in the third week of December.

PDIC has started to service the claims of depositors with deposits of P100,000 or less. Nazareno said that out of Unitrust's about 18,000 depositors, only 400 had funds that would not be covered by insurance.

However, in terms of total amount, the funds in the bank of those 400 depositors accounted for a little over half of Unitrust's P258 million in total deposits.

Nazareno said that PDIC would work on coming up with a statement of condition to be shown to interested parties so these can present a rehabilitation plan to the state-owned insurer.

He also disclosed that former owners led by former Unitrust president Francis Yuseco Jr. were also interested in submitting a rehabilitation plan for Unitrust.

Yuseco's group was embroiled in an ownership squabble with G. Cosmos Philippines Inc. chair Genta Ogami, who claimed he owned 100 percent of the bank. Ogami is reportedly wanted for fraud in Japan.

Gov't, Tan to sign PNB loan conversion deal on Jan. 25

THE GOVERNMENT and Lucio Tan would formalize on Jan. 25 the agreement on the conversion to state equity of part of the P25 billion in debts of Philippine National Bank to start the rehabilitation of the country's sixth largest lender.

TAN

CAMACHO

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said the memorandum of agreement would be signed in the coming week, a month since the two parties agreed on the term sheet containing the details of the debt-to-equity conversion plan.

PNB chair Norberto Nazareno said the signing would be held next Friday and the two groups were just finalizing the documents.

Camacho said the government and Tan's group were already in the process of selecting a new chair and president for PNB. Nazareno, who is also the president of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., would stay as director.

"We are already talking with a prospective president and chair but we would only announce the names once they have agreed," Camacho said.

The government had earlier appointed banker Edward Go to chair PNB but the former president of Asian Banking Corp. chose to head United Coconut Planters Bank.

Bankers Ramon Sy, president of International Exchange Bank, and Isidro Alcantara, president of Philippine Bank of Communications, were being considered as the next president of PNB. Sources said one would be appointed as chair and the other as president.

The agreement that the national government and Tan would sign covers the conversion of P7.8 billion in PNB debts into government equity, the offsetting of P10 billion worth of government advances from PNB, and the restructuring for 10 years of the remaining P6.1 billion.

The conversion of P7.8 billion into convertible preferred shares to be held by PDIC would give the government a 45-percent stake in the bank from 16 percent and consequently dilute Tan's ownership from 68 percent to 45 percent.

Since the PDIC would own non-voting shares, the taipan's group would assign part of its voting rights to the national government, according to Nazareno. This would give the state and Tan equal voting rights in PNB.

The MOA, Camacho said, would be more binding than the term sheet signed by the two parties on Dec. 20.

Conviction oven

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

RECENTLY, somebody asked me about what I really stand for in life. It's a bit heavy, I know, and I'm not sure if my contract as communist, or rather "columnist," allows me to go into deep thoughts.

My assignment papers specify I should only talk about silly things. In the center of them is the economy. When business is not doing well, for instance, our government always does silly things called economic policy.

To be specific, I must mention the recent statement of Catholic bishops. They just described what our dearly beloved senators do, which is even published in newspapers everyday and also seen on national television many times a day, as "inane behavior."

That, as I understand my role in life, at least according to my boss here, is exactly right down my alley. It's really simple: Silly things, *pwede*; inane behavior, *mismo*. So what about conviction, particularly my own conviction? Hmm. I am just not sure.

* * *

SO when somebody asks me about conviction, I have to think deeply. Does it have something to do with the oven? But that's a convection oven. I must pause for a while, do absolutely nothing extraneous and just drink beer all night in the company of young, beautiful GR . . .

Anyway, that somebody asked me: "*Hoy*, Adong, what is your firm, resolute belief in life, except of course your stanch position that, whatever happens to the country, there should be a good basketball game everytime you turn on the TV?"

He added: "Please answer in your own words. And in only two simple words!" I don't know if it was his way of saying that he knew the extent of my vocabulary.

Well, in two words, my answer to that query, in my own words, is that this cute administration must remove deadwood in its ranks and shelve even the high and the mighty whose reputations are tainted with corruption, imagined or real. Amen.

All right, those are not two words. They are also not exactly my own words. They are the words of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, which is a grouping of men who like to wear long gowns. Just kidding, boss!

Actually they don't wear anything underneath, but in my own words, my conviction in life, my firm and resolute belief outside basketball is this: Cabinet revamp.

* * *

LOOK, in so many words, the bishops themselves said it. They wanted a Cabinet revamp. It's just that they were more diplomatic, and they toned down their statement by calling some Cabinet members simply as "deadwood".

If I may explain what "deadwood" means, in my own two words, it really just means "political hangers-on who make it their lifetime career to ingratiate themselves with politicians and, thus, land juicy positions in this cute administration."

But the dead give-away in the CBCP statement was, well, it talked about corruption. And not just any corruption. It said both IMAGINED or REAL. Wow, that's brutal! To me, it shows a sense of exasperation even on the part of men of the gown . . . *este*, cloth.

In other words, whether the corruption of Cabinet members is proven, or it is already talked about all over town, anyway, they have to go. Nobody admits being corrupt. Everybody denies to death. Sadly, Gloriaetta tends to believe them.

* * *

IN business, as you know, they have been expecting a revamp since a couple of months ago. Look, none of Gloriaetta's boys even stands up to defend their boss, who is already getting all sorts of flak in media. She is on her own now.

As I said recently in my portion called "Biz@Biz" on Newswatch Now, the primetime news program on Channel 9, with the beautiful Marigold Haber as co-anchor of Eric Eloriaga, who only has a nice car, a high-paying job, and that's it, so why should I be jealous, especially since Marigold even thinks I'm funny . . . but, where was I?

As I said on television, business is now divided. Some groups support Glorietta. Others think she's not paying attention to the economy. They say she thinks of the elections in 2004 too much, running around the country like a headless chick.

Or is that "chicken?" Anyway, another group comes out with a statement, saying the country needs a leader and not just an economic manager. So what the hell do those in business really want Gloria to be? Those are two opposite views, and they don't even come from the Senate.

* * *

GLORIAETTA cannot please everybody. Whatever she does, some people will always find fault in her. Even if she performs a miracle, and she solves all our deeply rooted problems, they will still find something wrong. And that is, she is a woman.

In other words, as President of the Republic, Gloriaetta must expect the flak. Being at the top simply means she gets all the attention, and most of it is bad. Well, it is said that somebody is after her position.

In my own two words, do I believe that somebody wants to boot out Gloriaetta right away, please, and let's not wait for the next elections, since we can always manipulate the legality of things, say, by changing the form of government?

In two words, YES! In fact, somebody actually talked to big figures in business, asking for their support to help some mysterious group in booting Gloriaetta out of power, since they only have the national interest at heart, honest.

* * *

BUT do I think Gloria is doing a terrific job? No, I don't think she is. Of course she earned some good points in agriculture, the budget deficit, and overall economic management. We could have been another Argentina, for all we know.

But she must still work hard in other areas like peace and order, housing, and deliver of basic services. It will take time to solve all our problems, I know, but we don't have the luxury of time. We need some bold and creative solutions right now.

But do I think we should replace Gloriaetta? No, of course not, a thousand times NO! All the issues thrown against her and this cute administration are the ordinary issues thrown against any president in the past in any country. It's part of day-to-day politics.

If take her out, simply because she cannot perform miracles, then we will have to replace the next one too. I am sure that whoever that is, man or beast or something in between, also cannot solve our problems all at once.

And then what do we do? We will then have to replace the replacement of the replacement. And so on and so forth.

₱250-M Salcon IPO cleared

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the application of Salcon Power Corp., a Philippine unit of the Salcon energy group of Singapore, for an initial public offering of 313.9 million shares.

The power firm expects to raise approximately P250 million to partly fund a project to install diesel power plants in eight islands in the country.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Salcon Power said it would offer for sale 156.95 million primary and 156.96 million secondary shares with a par value of P1 at an offer price of P1.70 to P2.20 each.

The shares to be offered will represent approximately 20 percent of Salcon Power's issued and outstanding capital stock of 1.569 million shares after completion of the IPO. The IPO will be firmly underwritten by ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc.

Salcon Power was formed after a consortium led by Salcon Philippines Inc. was awarded the contract to rehabilitate, operate, maintain and manage the 203-megawatt Naga power plant complex and the mandate for several other power projects in the Visayas.

The company explained that it would use proceeds from the sale of primary shares to partially finance its equity requirements for the Eight Islands Diesel project, a $27-million project to install diesel engine-driven power plants in eight of the country's islands.

Salcon Power said it intended to finance the project with a 30-percent equity representing P417 million to be infused in its wholly owned unit, Salcon Island Power Corp., that was awarded the government contract and 70 percent debt.

The company is currently negotiating with a German financial institution for a dollar-denominated project loan to finance the 70-percent project debt. The indicative terms for the project loan include a six-year repayment period, with interest pegged at the London Interbank Borrowing Rate plus 1.2 percent.

Salcon Power said it aimed to participate in power projects in the country, including bidding for state-owned National Power Corp.'s power generation assets that would be privatized.

The company forecast a profit of P582.54 million for fiscal year ending July 31 next year. Assets are expected to total P4.24 billion and capital to reach P3.2 billion.

RFM unit sinks ₱324M in storage facility

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

PHILIPPINE Townships Inc., RFM Corp.'s industrial estate development arm, is investing some P323.7 million to build the country's biggest and complete cold storage facility.

The Board of Investments granted the project "pioneer" status, entitling Philippine Townships to fiscal perks, including a minimum four-year income tax holiday.

In its application, Philippine Townships said its project would have the single biggest and complete cold chain service facilities in the country, including logistics and value-added processing services.

The lack of modern cold storage facilities in the country has been blamed for the high cost of domestic agricultural products because of the high spoilage rate of fruits and vegetables that are not transported immediately from farms to consumer markets.

The cold storage facility will have a capacity of 4.161 million cubic meters annually and can handle a diverse range of products, such as fruit, vegetable, poultry and livestock.

The project, located at the RFM headquarters in Mandaluyong City, will generate at least 100 jobs when it starts operations in May next year.

The project will deploy European technology and a multiple temperature and atmosphere-controlled storage center, which can store various products at maximum preservation time while maintaining their nutritional value and quality.

The cold storage facility will initially serve the in-house requirements of RFM, but Philippine Townships is keen on tapping other food producers and processors in the country.

The project is also expected to be part of a regional network of cold storage facilities with links to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand when the Asean Free Trade Area starts in 2003.

The project is part of RFM's venture with Iglo Sdn. Bhd. of Malaysia.

The deal was an offshoot of President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to Malaysia last year.

Cebu Pacific not consulted on 'lent' flights

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

THE CIVIL Aeronautics Board failed to consult Cebu Pacific Air when it lent the carrier's allocated flights to South Korea to rival Philippine Airlines Inc., according to a member of the board.

In a letter he sent to his fellow board members, CAB member Alberto Lim said he signed with reservation a resolution allowing PAL to use Cebu Pacific's entitlements because he believed the CAB should have first consulted Cebu Pacific.

Cebu Pacific is owned by the family of retail tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. while PAL's majority owner is beer and tobacco magnate Lucio Tan.

"Since the board already granted the three RP-Korea frequency entitlements to another carrier, Cebu Pacific Air, and we were being requested to provisionally lend two of the three frequency entitlements for a limited period (while the grantee is still not using it), it is proper that we advise the rightful owner, Cebu Pacific, of this temporary loan to PAL," Lim said in his letter.

On Monday, the CAB approved PAL's "urgent petition for temporary allocation of RP-Korea frequency entitlements" without consulting Cebu Pacific. It also acted on PAL's petition without adding provisions in the resolution that would ensure the temporary nature of the permit.

In its petition, PAL said it needed additional flights to South Korea to promote tourism in Cebu.

Lim added that PAL should have submitted to the CAB "an undertaking in writing that they would not seek an extension of this provisional authority without Cebu Pacific's prior approval."

This, he said, would "preempt any mistaken action that this temporary grant to PAL may be subsequently converted to a permanent grant of frequency entitlements, which would result in the reversal of our earlier decision taken on Dec. 19, 2001."

In a resolution issued on Dec. 19, the CAB granted Cebu Pacific three frequency entitlements to Seoul after Manila secured four new designations from Seoul following the conclusion of their air rights negotiations in November.

Lim said in an interview that when the country got the additional frequency entitlements from Seoul, PAL seemed to have forgotten its opposition to the air rights agreement and expressed intention to "grab" these new designations, even those already given to another carrier.

BSP backs inflation forecast

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is supporting the plan of the National Economic and Development Authority to propose a positive adjustment in the inflation target this year to a range of 4 to 5 percent from an earlier forecast of 5 to 6 percent.

This month alone, the BSP is already projecting a decline in inflation to a range of 3.7 to 3.9 percent from the previous month's 3.9 percent.

The central bank adopted inflation targeting as the basis for its monetary policies. This means that any policy-decision must be consistent with the government's inflation target to keep prices of basic goods and services stable.

"We think the inflation rate this month would be better than December since we are coming from a higher base last year," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said. Inflation stood at 6.9 percent in January 2001. ***Clarissa S. Batino***

Piatco to blame for its own woes

RATHER than complain about all the flak and bad press it is getting, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. and its owners should answer the charges leveled against them to convince the public that their hands are clean.

This was the statement issued by retired Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison, president of the Lucio Tan-owned Basic Holdings Corp., in response to an earlier interview by the INQUIRER with Piatco owner Jefferson Cheng.

"For months, Piatco, the Cheng family and their partners have been at the receiving end of so much bad press. This stemmed from charges of plunder and continuing allegations of graft and corruption, which have tainted the Naia Terminal III project," Mison said.

"But instead of convincingly answering the charges against them, Piatco and the Chengs have chosen to pick a fight with businessman Lucio Tan, believing that he is behind the Chengs' misfortunes and misadventures with Congress, the courts and the Philippine and international press," he stressed.

Mison explained that several items needed to be clarified to debunk the lies and misrepresentations being peddled by Cheng in his interview.

First, it's not true that Philippine Airlines Inc. or its owner, Tan, have any intention of creating a monopoly in the local commercial aviation industry, he said. The fact that Philippine Airport Ground Services Inc., a company owned by the Chengs, has been doing and continues to do business at the airport along with hundreds of other cargo and airline-related businesses in Naia Terminals I and II is proof of this, he added.

"If anyone wants to have a monopoly at the airport, it's none other than the Chengs because they want Naia III all for themselves to the exclusion of other airline service operators. In fact, their competitors, who employ thousands of workers, are now fighting for their survival. This is because the Chengs, who are very much involved in the airline service business, want their competitors out of the new terminal. As airport builder and service operator at the same time, Piatco and the Chengs are guilty of serious conflict of interest, which opened them to vicious attacks by members of MASO (MIAA-Naia Service Operators)," Mison stressed.

As things stood, he added, PAL was quite happy with its consolidated operations at the Naia Centennial Terminal. He explained that it was during the term of President Fidel Ramos when PAL was invited to operate at the terminal. Other airlines were asked to transfer but nobody took the challenge, he said.

"Now, Piatco and the Chengs are forcing PAL, through the Department of Transportation and Communications, to transfer to Naia Terminal III. Isn't it ironic that the Chengs accuse PAL of creating a monopoly when it is they who are not giving the flag carrier the option to continue operating its current terminal as part of its rehabilitation program?" Mison asked.

Moreover, he added, Piatco wanted the public to believe that the contract for Terminal III "fell on their lap" and that Tan and the Asian Emerging Dragons Corp. did not want to pay the government more than what Piatco was offering.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, January 18, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	3,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	60.5	58.5	60.5	660,500
Citystate Savings Bank	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	25.5	28	25.5	28	2,499,500
First E-Bank Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	23,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	199	204	199	203	95,610
Philippine National Bank	64	64.5	64	64.5	43,600
Phil. Savings Bank	27	28	27	28	2,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13.5	13	13.5	23,300
Security Bank Corp.	17	17.5	17	17.5	66,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.75	16.25	15.75	16.25	286,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	160,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	170,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1035	1030	1035	1,710
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	26	28	26	28	28,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.45	8,180,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	665	665	33,410
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	250,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	5,000
Piltel	0.35	0.35	0.3	0.31	2,450,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	250,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	420	445	420	445	167,800
Ivantage Corporation	0.47	0.56	0.47	0.5	420,000
Philweb.Com, Inc.	0.019	0.021	0.019	0.021	244,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	23.75	24.5	23.5	24.25	102,300
Manila Electric Co. "B"	32	34.5	32	34.5	2,924,200
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.82	1.72	1.78	19,421,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.9	2.75	2.85	3,107,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.31	120,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	540,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	8,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.9	180,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	120,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	2,635,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	349,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24.25	24	24.25	35,200
RFM Corp.	2.34	2.4	2.34	2.38	3,012,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	44	44.5	44	44.5	98,300
San Miguel Corp. "B"	54	56	54	56	177,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1,840,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.68	0.72	0.68	0.72	150,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.69	30,000
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.7	27,135,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.62	1.54	1.62	1,067,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	1,600
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.87	0.82	0.87	780,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	70,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	202,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	160,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.56	0.58	21,540,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	40,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.19	0.21	700,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.21	0.23	12,800,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.12	1.02	1.1	6,420,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	203,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Ionics Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.3	83,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.54	313,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.24	1.32	1.24	1.32	420,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. "A"	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	14,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.75	0.78	7,300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.32	0.33	12,660,000
Music Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.28	11,940,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	2,000,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. "B"	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	810,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	40,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.07	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.195	0.18	0.195	5,230,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.33	0.4	0.33	0.4	350,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.32	3,700,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. "A"	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.65	80,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.47	0.43	0.45	6,850,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.51	300,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	420,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	4,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	26.5	28.5	26.5	28	631,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.9	486,000
Globe Tel. "A" - Warrants	410	410	407.5	407.5	1,530
Omico Corporation Warrant	0.0016	0.0016	0.0014	0.0014	221,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	9,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	7,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series "A"	10	10	10	10	900
Philweb.Com. Inc -Warrants	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	229,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	13,441,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.17	0.19	700,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.26	3,020,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.45	0.48	0.45	0.48	17,020,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	17,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.38	2.55	2.38	2.55	28,623,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	140,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.07	0.075	0.07	0.075	300,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0 06	0.085	0.06	0.085	300,000
SM Development Corp.	0.94	0.98	0.94	0.98	150,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	9,560,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.08	0.0825	0.08	0.0825	2,200,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.004	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.65	2.75	2.65	2.75	14,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "A"	0.027	0.028	0.026	0.028	26,700,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. "A"	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	780,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co "B"	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,050,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0044	0.0038	0.0038	75,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	7,300,000
Philex Mining Corp. "B"	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	600,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	22,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "B"	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	6,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.06	0.07	0.055	0.07	700,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000

Gov't to cut inflation . . .

(From page B1)

Finance, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Bureau of Treasury.

"The official target is still 5-6 percent, but given the recent behavior of inflation rate in recent months, the average inflation this year could go lower, to about 4-5 percent," Canlas said.

On the part of macroeconomic managers, Canlas noted that continued fiscal discipline would help support the lower inflation rate outlook.

"We'll have to make sure that fiscal deficits won't jeopardize monetary management," he said.

The government's chief economist also said that the country was not likely to face any unexpected shortfall in supply of basic goods that would lead to a spiraling of consumer prices. For instance, he said the global price of petroleum was still expected to be bearish for this year.

"Also, we expect the prices of commodities to remain stable, in line with our trade liberalization program," Canlas said.

DISCLOSURES

COSMOS Bottling Corp. has named SMC-Stock Transfer Services Corp. as its new transfer agent.

* * *

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. has denied having immediate plans to build a $600-million gas power plant in Metro Manila or convert existing plants in the area.

* * *

THE **PHILIPPINE National Bank** has clarified that it has no definite plan regarding the sale or the transfer to an asset management company of its real estate and other properties owned or acquired.

* * *

BELLE Corp. has announced that the Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the amendment in its articles of incorporation decreasing its number of directors from 15 to 11.

* * *

IMPERIAL Resources Inc. has disclosed that its president, Oliverio Laperal, is authorized to discuss the terms of contract of guarantee on the loan that may be availed by **Web Link Philippines Inc.** from **Prudential Bank**, Buendia branch.

* * *

SUSPENSION on the trading of **Philippine National Construction Corp.** shares has been lifted after the company submitted 200 copies of its annual report to the Philippine Stock Exchange. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Unions maintain share of US workforce despite recession

WASHINGTON—Union membership maintained its share of the US workforce in 2001 despite a recession that hit heavily unionized industries especially hard, the government said on Thursday.

The number of union members actually edged up by 17,000 to 16.3 million. But that still represented 13.5 percent of the nation's wage and salary workforce, unchanged from 2000, the US Labor Department said in an annual report.

"Despite a year of record layoffs and historic national upheaval, unions held their own in terms of membership in 2001," said John Sweeney, president of the 66-union AFL-CIO.

The report, compiled by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, showed unions' share of the private sector workforce unchanged at 9 percent despite a decline of 35,000 union members that was matched by cuts in nonunion jobs.

In the government sector, where unions have had their greatest recruiting successes in recent years, 37.4 percent of workers belonged to unions, down from 37.5 percent in 2000.

Unions managed to add 52,000 members among government workers, bringing the sector total to 7.2 million. But the rise in new members failed to keep pace with overall growth in the government workforce.

The number of unionized workers has changed little since the end of World War Two. But unions' share of the workforce has been slipping steadily over the years from its mid-1950s peak of about one-third of US jobs.

Sweeney has sought to spur unions to devote more resources to recruiting non-union workers. But union membership is still down from 14.9 percent in 1995, the year he became labor federation president.

Because the Labor Department's union membership report represents an annual average instead of a year-end snapshot, it may not fully reflect the huge job losses that followed the Sept. 11 attacks in the heavily unionized airline and hotel industries, a government economist said.

Heavily unionized manufacturing jobs and seldom-unionized temporary-help jobs also have been hit hard by the recession, which started last March.

Earlier this month, the Labor Department said the overall number of employed people in the United States fell 1.9 million to 134.1 million between the end of 2000 and 2001.

Protective service jobs, including firefighters and police officers, had the highest unionization rate with 38 percent last year, though down from 39.4 percent in 2000. At the other end of the spectrum were sales jobs, where only 3.5 percent of workers are unionized, unchanged from 2000. *Reuters*

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Singapore firms see better days

SINGAPORE—Singapore companies are cautiously optimistic about economic and business prospects in the coming year, consulting firm Watson Wyatt said Friday.

In a survey of 315 companies on their outlook, 84 percent of the 224 firms that had yet to cut staff said they were unlikely to do so in the year ahead.

Of the companies that had cut jobs, a majority said they were unlikely to make more retrenchments, Watson said in a statement.

The survey said about 60 percent of the small number of companies that had cut staff salaries expected to restore pay levels in the coming year.

It found a majority of the firms that implemented wage freezes were likely to remove them in 12 months.

"Companies across major industry sectors are projecting higher salary increases. However, a majority of the companies foresee the recovery process to be more gradual than immediate," Watson Wyatt's local unit director, Kwan Chee Wei, said.

The survey said financial services appeared to be the most upbeat about profitability in 2002 while semiconductor and electronics manufacturing sectors are the least positive about profitability. *Reuters*

Indonesia must boost health, education to cut poverty–UN

JAKARTA—Indonesia must put people first with major investment in education and health care if it wants to recreate the economic miracle of past decades, according to a report released Friday.

"Indonesia faces enormous and diverse challenges—consolidating democracy, addressing regional conflicts and regenerating the economy," says the Indonesia Human Development Report 2001.

"They will only be achieved if they are based on common values and a new consensus—on a shared commitment to human development."

The report was jointly prepared by the United Nations Development Program, the national development and planning board Bappenas and the Central Bureau of Statistics.

It says Indonesia ranks only 102nd in the world in terms of human development, based on income, life expectancy and educational achievement.

The report credits the regime of then President Suharto with making "enormous strides" in human development while noting that "for three decades, the New Order regime had forced Indonesians to trade political freedom for economic progress."

But the 1997-1998 regional financial crisis was a serious blow to progress.

Between 1997 and 1998, inflation surged from 6 percent to 78 percent, while real wages fell by around one-third, leading to a sharp rise in poverty.

"In the aftermath of the economic crisis, Indonesia faces serious challenges of human development," the report says. "Their long-term outlook for public services is poor." *AFP*

HK vows to tackle joblessness

HONG KONG—The Hong Kong government vowed Friday to tackle Hong Kong's economic woes by targeting a structural budget deficit and a jobless rate that escalated to a two-year high.

Hong Kong's financial secretary would focus on the territory's long-term development in planning his March budget, said Leung Chi-ying, convenor of Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa's Cabinet.

The pledge comes after Financial Secretary Antony Leung revealed the territory faced a structural budget deficit that, in a worst-case scenario, could lead to an Argentine-style crisis, threatening the Hong Kong dollar's 18-year peg to the US dollar.

His remarks came as government economic data showed the provisional unemployment rate in the three months to December rose to 6.1 percent from 5.8 percent in the three months to November, the highest since the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

Leung estimated it would be three years or more before Hong Kong could return to a balanced budget.

"The most important thing is that the government maintains prudent management of public finances. We are confident we can solve the problem," the financial secretary said Thursday.

"The outlook should not be too pessimistic," he told reporters when asked on the state of the territory's economy, which is expected to record zero growth for 2001.

He refused to divulge whether the government would introduce new taxes to offset the effects of an economic downturn that would result in a record HK$60-billion (US$7.69-billion) deficit in the 2001-02 fiscal year, well above the $3 billion projected in last year's budget. *AFP*

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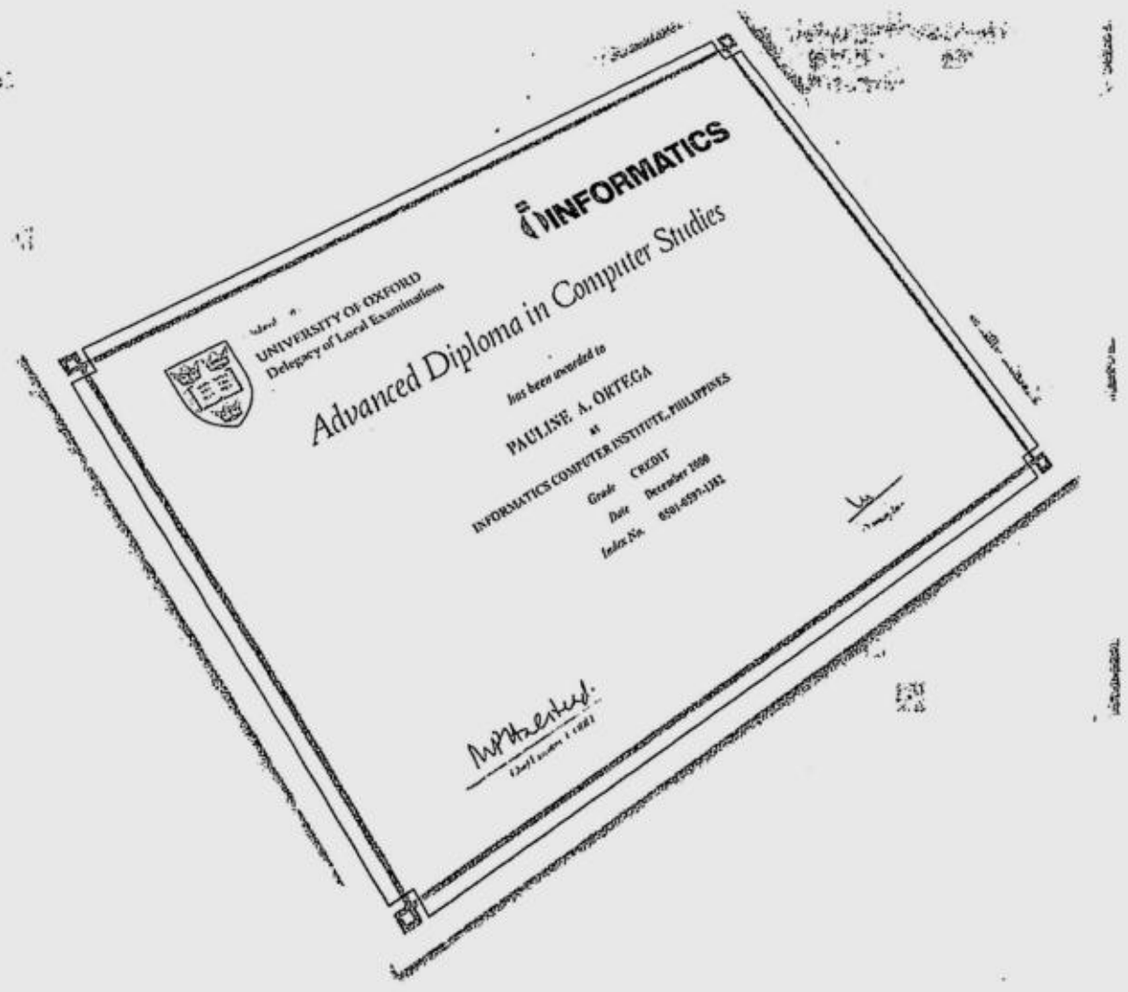

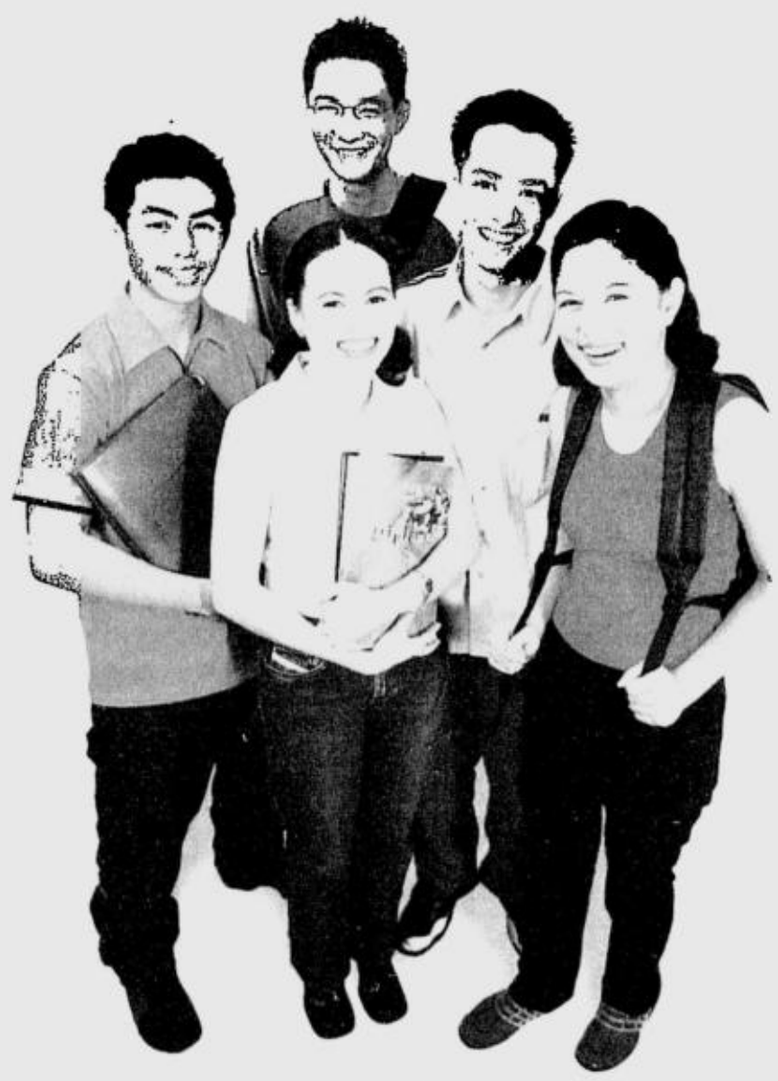
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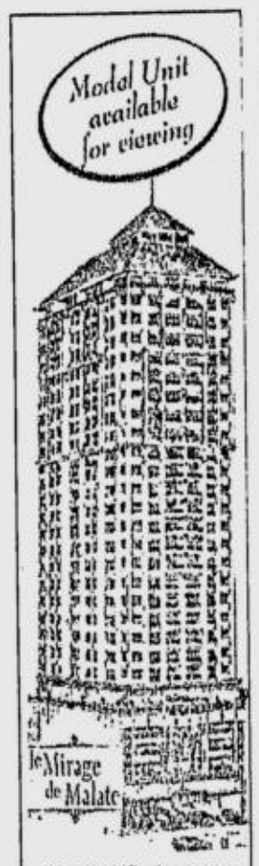

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Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA (Tel. Nos. 510-2947 and 551-3457; and telefax 551-3456).

(Sgd.) **LILIA B. DE LIMA**
Director General

(PDI - Jan. 19, 2002)

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Send application letter with bio-data to P.O. Box 7079 ADC, NAIA, Pasay City or Fax No. 823-6503 email: mcv@albargroup.com.ph
Free board & lodging Batangas assignment

FEMALE

F-ESCORT-0916-40444479

Fitness Instructress,Life-guard Domestic Helper & Beautician •5623962•09176916992•

OB-GYNE NURSE Urgently Reqd. Full time 4 small charity run clinic Call Alison Duncan 843-9025

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280730

Med Tech Physical Thera Pharmacists Nurses Nutritionist Optometrists Submit Biodata Interview Rm 309 Sunrise Condo Ortigas Ave Greenhills Friday 8AM Bring Transcript

M/F 18-22 Yrs Old Bring Bio-data Apply in person Call 410-8603 Rene

Nurses mdwivesPT7114693/7831161

OFC STAFF 9134470Mariel

OFC STAFF Rush9134470 Ian

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **CORAZON C. LOPEZ** consisting of personal and real properties had been the subject of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate executed by and among the heirs as per Doc. No. 12, Page No. 4, Book No. 1, Series of 2001 of Notary Public Ma. Rosalie Richa A. Tagulan.

(PDI--Jan. 5, 12 and 19, 2002)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

WANTED PHARMACIST PREFERABLY RESIDING AT NOVALICHES CAL. CITY PLS CALL 9393483

WANTED TUTOR for HS & Grade 4, Good in Math & Science. Fax resume w/ picture@5225185

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #233 BUENDIA SHOPPING PLAZA SEN.GIL PUYAT AVE. MAKATI CITY; #602 JP RIZAL ST.,MAKATI CITY; #15 GEN. SANTOS AVE., LOWER BICUTAN, TAGUIG; REAL ST. ALMANZA UNO LAS PINAS CITY will hold an Auction Sale on •January 26, 2002• at 9:00A.M. including all items pawned up to August 2001.
V.Zamora Jr.
Lic. Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BAYAD CENTER • 633-5741

BULACAN RESIDENTS EARN W/TRAVEL OPP CHATO (044)-668-1571

Earn Up to 29T/mo. by Paying Ur Monthly Bills 6335527/6335528/4536630

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Gibe11%Smrt 11.5% 745-9351

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSINESS FREE TRAINING 2554643 OR 44 2569331 OR 36

Roasted Chicken Food Counter Store
Good Location:Nepa Q-Mart
Negotiable • CALL
0917-8382858 • 150303751

RTW InventorySale 3738821

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificates of San Miguel Corp. bearing nos. 01678290, 9960357, 97504375, 96403134, 95298533, 94173922, 93092177, 92046202, 89043601, 89021705, 88015545 and 88031995 issued to CARMITA-INDAY B. TROSDAL of 98 F. Ramos St. Cebu City, Philippines, which in the aggregate represent Two Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Eight (2,568) number of shares were lost or misplaced and could not be found; hence these are to be declared lost and to be reconstituted after cancellation so replacement could be made.
(PDI-Jan. 12, 19 & 26, 2002)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pray for us.
Thank you very much.

IT ENGINEERS
and
OPERATIONS MANAGERS

Incom Ltd., a multi-national company seeks Telecom and IT engineers with experience as Operations Managers.

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terryg@po.jaring.my
MR. TERRY GURUBATHAM
Operations Director
Incom Ltd.
Suite 1402, 14th Flr., 1st e-Bank Tower
8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Fax No. 817-0709

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PICC PROJECTS

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites prospective bidders to apply for prequalification/eligibility for the **Replacement of Fixed Theater Seats - PICC Plenary Hall.** Scope of Work includes furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, services and other incidentals required to perform: (a) dismantling of existing fixed theater seats and hauling to the designated storage; (b) preparation of a complete seating plans; (c) complete installation of new theater seats; and (d) all items necessary to complete the work.

Minimum requirement to prequalify to bid for said project are as follows:

1.0 Local supplier should be a seating contractor for the past 10 years (reckoned from October 1991) specializing in the manufacture, assembly and distribution of seating furniture for commercial installations/systems furniture.

2.0 Local supplier should have supplied and installed locally at least a total of 1,500 theater seats with at least 900 seats installed in one project.

3.0 The contractor should have a net contracting capacity of at least a total of P35.5 Million computed as follows: NFCC = (Current Assets minus Current Liabilities) minus (Value of all Outstanding works under on-going contracts including awarded contract yet to be started).

4.0 Must submit a notarized certificate of satisfactory performance (for the 2 biggest theater seats projects) signed by the client's and design consultant's authorized signatories. In case of in-house design, the approved signatories shall be the designer and the Head of the design/infrastructure department of approved equal. Certification form can be obtained from the AHCPP Secretariat. The Bank reserves the right to validate such certification and shall automatically disqualify any bidder who falsify data on these documents or issue fake certifications.

5.0 Must be able to submit a demo unit and accomplish the Prequalification Statements/Documents to be issued by the AHCPP Secretariat.

6.0 In case where the local supplier is a distributor of the theater seats, the local supplier should have had for the past 2-1/2 years (reckoned from January 1999) a distributorship/dealership contract with the foreign supplier/manufacturer of the theater seats to be used for the project. The said contract should not expire before December 2003; otherwise, the local supplier should submit a notarized affidavit attesting that the contract shall be extended to a minimum of at least 1 year after the project has been completed and accepted by BSP/PICC. Submit a dated certification from the principal attesting these requirements.

7.0 The manufacturer of the theater seats should be ISO 9000 certified.

8.0 Articles of Incorporation and Business Permit

9.0 Y2000 audited Financial Statement (Balance Sheet and Income Statement) with Y2000 Income Tax Return

Prequalification Statements/Documents may be obtained from AHCPP Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Streets, Manila. Date and time of issuance of is on **January 16 to 21, 2002** / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn. Cost of form is two hundred pesos per set (P200/set). Deadline of submission of Prequalification Documents is on **January 30, 2002.**

Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility shall be issued on **February 4, 2002** / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn at the AHCPP Secretariat together with the issuance of **Bid/Tender Documents** to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents (P2,000.00/set).

For inquiries, please call AHCPP Secretariat at Tel. No. 524-7011 local 3143.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of Executive Order No. 262 Series of 2000 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations shall apply relative to prequalification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

January 16 and 19.

On Leave Jan. 14
JUAN QUINTOS, JR.
Co-Chairman

(Sgd.) **VICENTE B. VALDEPEÑAS, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Jan. 16 & 19, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue,
Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. No. 743-8301 to 23

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Integrated Community Health Services Project, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Prequalification is issued.
2. The Department of Health intends to prequalify consulting firms for the Social Marketing sub-component of the Project. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from ADB member countries, in accordance with ADB guidelines.
3. Interested eligible firms may obtain the prequalification documents not later than 1700 hours Philippine Standard Time, on **25 January 2002** from the following address:

   Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
   Department of Health
   Building 3, San Lazaro Compound
   Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
4. Submission of Applications for Prequalification, consisting of one original and two (2) copies, must be received in sealed envelopes, either delivered by hand or by registered mail to same address above not later than **8 February 2002.**
5. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
6. Only firms and joint ventures prequalified under this procedure will be invited to submit proposals.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI - Jan. 19 & 20, 2002)

PHILIPPINE NAVY SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION, INC.
(Authorized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig

NOTICE TO ALL PNSLAI MEMBERS:

The Philippine Navy Savings & Loan Association, Inc. will hold its Annual General Membership Meeting on Saturday, **January 26, 2002** at The Seabees Multi-purpose Hall. Registration will start at 8:00 AM.

All members are requested to attend.

COMMO EDUARDO T. DOMINGO AFP (Ret.)
President & General Manager

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

MAKATI
892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370

KALAW
528-0213; 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219; 635-0220

JOB OPENING

Club Management Corporation with office address at Sta. Elena Golf Club, Bo. Malitlit, Sta. Rosa, Laguna urgently needs qualified applicants for the following position:

COOK II (2)

- ☑ Male, 25 to 40 years old
- ☑ With at least 3-4 years experience in food preparation
- ☑ At least college level
- ☑ Knowledgeable in Filipino, Western and Chinese cuisine
- ☑ Preferably single

To those who meet the above qualifications, please send your complete resumé with picture to:

Human Resources Department
Club Management Corporation
Bo. Malitlit, Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Or call Nellie or Teody at telephone numbers (049) 549-1277/78/93 local 121 or 153 or (02) 845-0529 Tuesdays to Saturdays (office hours).

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Tel. No. 435-3366 or 920-5521 loc. 3600 / Fax No. 928-2303

14 January 2002

INVITATION TO BID
FOR DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MATERIALS

_____
_____
_____

Gentlemen:

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting all interested bidders to participate in the ***bidding for the disposal of the various excess (unused) materials*** as listed below:

As per MWSI Technical Specifications
1) Various Types & Sizes of Meter Protectors
2) Various Types & Sizes of Saddle Clamps
3) Various Types & Sizes of Clamp Blank Saddle

Bid documents can be secured at the MWSI-Purchasing Department, MWSS Building, Basement, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos Only (P500.00) in the form of Cash or Manager's Check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI).

The actual inspection of the items can be made from **January 21-25, 2002** in coordination with the MWSI-Purchasing Department.

Bid proposal together with the bid bond equivalent to 2% of the total bid amount shall be submitted in a sealed envelope at the Purchasing Department, ***on or before January 29, 2002 (Tuesday); 5:00 p.m.*** Award will be based on the highest bid received.

Finally, MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason/s, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the MWSI.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
AVP, Corporate Logistics

(PDI - Jan. 19, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Solana
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Components for which this invitation to pre-qualify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of **SOLANA, CAGAYAN** as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to pre-qualify contractors and if pre-qualified, to bid for the construction and completion of:

   CONCRETING OF UBONG BARANGAY ROADS (2.460 KM FTMB)

   Minimum Equipments required

1 unit Road Grader	-	Owned/Leased
1 unit Vibratory Compactor	-	Owned/Leased
1 unit Water Truck	-	Owned/Leased
2 units Concrete Mixer (1 bagger)	-	Owned
1 unit Concrete Screeder	-	Owned
1 unit Bar Cutter	-	Owned

3. Pre-qualification forms (Pre-C) and bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders at the **Municipal Engineering Office**, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** for each set payable to the Municipal Treasurer. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, **PBAC-ARCP**, Municipality of Solana, Cagayan not later than **January 28, 2002.**
5. The submission and opening of bids will be on **February 27, 2002** at the Conference Hall Office of the Mayor. No bids will be accepted later than 2.00 p.m. of **February 27, 2002**. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security which could be verified from the Office of the Municipal Engineer.
6. The PBAC-ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO C. DE ASIS**
Chairman, PBAC-ARCP

(PDI - Jan. 18, 19 & 20, 2002)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

Cabanatuan Branch, Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO BID

The **DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES**, Cabanatuan Branch, Cabanatuan City, will receive competitive oral bids on "as is, where is" basis at its office at Burgos Avenue corner Gabaldon Street, Cabanatuan City, on January 30, 2002 at 10:30 a.m. for the following property, to wit:

TITLE NO./DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	STARTING BID
TCT No. T-107402, Parañaque City Registry; A parcel of residential lot containing an area of 300 sq.m., located at No. 3814 Daffodil Street, Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City	
Erected thereon is a two-storey residential house (TFA of 91 sq.m.)	P 2,302,400.00

F.O. - SPS. PETER & MARIVIC YU

For further information, please see the Special Accounts Division of the DBP Cabanatuan Branch at DBP Building, Burgos Avenue corner Gabaldon Street, Cabanatuan City or call telephone nos. (044) 463-1160/1165.

(Sgd.) **AVP ALFREDO T. CAGUIOA**
Branch Head

(PDI – Jan. 19 & 21, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBERS	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Venus Villanueva, Danilo Fernando, Grande & Josephine Afable	Lucena	Fedrico C. Afable SS# 01-0342411-4	December 29, 1992
2) Corazon Timbal	Bigte, Norzagaray, Bulacan	Eduardo G. Aldon SS# 03-2248791-6	July 5, 2000
3) Marina B. Boco	47-A Crus na Ligas, UP, Quezon City	Pablo Betiola SS# 03-2496351-9	December 8, 1999
4) Fidela De Ocampo	Unknown	Alberto T. Cabrera SS# 03-2650941-8	October 25, 2001
5) Teresita Cinco	855 Ongpin Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila	Aquilion Cinco SS# 03-2769652-4	July 5, 2001
6) Amparo Concha	Quiapo, Manila	Francisco S. Concha SS# 03-2508547-0	November 5, 2001
7) Pilarcita Grajo Cunanan	Unknown	Rodrigo Cunanan SS# 03-3305372-4	December 21, 2001
8) Virginia Azucena Dameg	Agdao, Davao City	Mariano Dameg SS# 09-0277420-1	February 4, 2000
9) Elisa Cruz Caayon	Dakila Street, Sumilang, Pasig City	Dativo Caayon, Jr. SS# 03-1322542-0	November 8, 2001
10) Crisanta De Asis	3702 Batong Street Pinagkaisahan, Makati City	Benito De Asis SS# 03-4023594-6	April 20, 2001
11) Federico O. Dela Cruz	Bonanza Phase 1, Parang, Marikina City	Michael M. Dela Cruz SS# 33-0949929-6	November 25, 2001
12) Priscilla	Unknown	Antonio M. Gallardo SS# 03-1416714-7	April 16, 2001
13) Jocielyn B. Hasal	43-G Valderama Street Bambang, Pasig City	Norman de Ramon Hasal SS# 03-5290532-9	November 27, 2001
14) Imelda P. Gotera	Naga	Alfredo A. Gotera SS# 03-0419443-4	February 27, 1999
15) Carmen	Unknown	Timoteo L. Hermosisima SS# 03-0594670-4	October 9, 2001
16) Irene Quijote	655 San Andres Street Malate, Manila	Elmer Jumamil/Jumamil SS# 03-2288617-7	June 4, 2001
17) Aurora Margallo	Unknown	Ramon Margallo SS# 03-2619980-2	September 16, 2001
18) Rosalinda Molina Edgar Bellonel	Carbide Village, Iligan City	Gabriel Molina SS# 09-0354267-8	March 27, 2000
19) Marites O. Monida	053 Market Site, Daraga, Albay	Benito M. Perez SS# 05-0250163-8	October 29, 2001
20) Vicenta Udarbe-Pichay	Magsingal, Ilocos Sur	Eduardo L. Pichay SS# 03-4642672-0	November 18, 2001
21) Francisca	Unknown	Crispulo Reyes SS# 03-0741895-5	December 2, 2001
22) Christine Samson	Pasig City	Delfin R. Samson SS# 03-2300164-7	January 26, 2000
23) Loretto Milagros Cabildo	10-C San Joaquin Street San Francisco del Monte Quezon City	Quintin Santiago, Jr. SS# 03-1675662-4	February 22, 2001
24) Victoria Zarate, Nelson & Elena Zarate	c/o Philippine Labor Federation Sasa, Davao City	Vivencio Sarate SS# 03-0107038-6	December 14, 1993
25) Adelaida Toledo	Unknown	Galidelicio Saria SS# 03-1359138-7	November 22, 2001
26) Dolores Geronimo Bobiles	Unknown	Saucho Bobiles SS# 03-0840538-1	October 17, 2001
27) Jessie C. Bessa MC Ivan Bessa	243 Sitio Mendez, Baesa, Quezon City	Rhiety Socia SS# 03-5866824-6	July 17, 1998
28) Elizabeth Franada	Unknown	Fernando R. Tublera SS# 02-0993289-8	August 10, 2001
29) Gloria Dela Cruz	Unknown	Pedro T. Valderama SS# 03-4826032-4	May 30, 2001
30) Elena A. Vicencio, Raffy & Marife Vicencio	Mandaluyong City	Rodolfo M. Vicencio SS# 03-9831251-0	May 5, 1998
31) Jesus Rearlo Villasista	Unknown	Josephine Villasista SS# 03-8004971-0	October 23, 2001

- nothing follows -

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
T. M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The National Historical Institute-Bids and Awards Committee invites contractors classified and registered with Inter-Agency Committee on Registration and Classification of Contractors to apply for eligibility and submit bid for the following projects:

1. **Restoration of the Barasoain Church Historical Landmark**
   Location : Malolos, Bulacan
   Approved Budget : P2,000,000.00
   Duration : 116 days
2. **Repair and Refurbishing of the Museum Building of M. H. del Pilar Historical Landmark**
   Location : Bulacan, Bulacan
   Approved Budget : P1,090,000.00
   Duration : 110 days

Interested parties are advised to submit Letter of Intent and photocopy (with original) of Registration of Business Name and Certification of Registration and Classification together with a Credit Line equivalent of ten percent (10%) of the Project Cost issued by a reputable bank on **January 22** to **31, 2002** at the Records Section, National Historical Institute, T. M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila. Eligibility forms and bid documents shall be issued on **February 4** to **5, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable fee.

Eligibility statements shall be submitted to the NHI-BAC on **February 11** to **12, 2002**, not later than 4:30 p.m. No eligibility statement shall be received after the said date and time.

Duly accomplished bid documents shall be made in two (2) sealed envelopes as required in PD 1594. Submission of documents and opening of bids shall be on **March 14, 2002** at 1:00 p.m. at the NHI Board Room.

Prequalified contractors shall submit their respective securities in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the total project cost at the date and time of the opening.

All particulars relative to eligibility screening, bidding and award of contract shall be governed by the Provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations.

The NHI reserves the right not to open bids at all and restart the bid process, to reject any and/or all prequalification and/or bids, waive any defects therein, and accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **AUGUSTO V. DE VIANA**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Jan. 19 & 26, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please call **LTO Hotline Numbers 925-60-42; 926-50-24; 922-90-61** up to **66**, for complaints against bus, taxi, jeepney drivers due to reckless driving, discourtesy, traffic violations, etc. and smoke-belching vehicles and other illegal operations.

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By the Assistant Secretary

(PDI – Jan. 19, 2002)

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BRIG. GEN. MANOLO P. TOPACIO, AFP (Ret.)

of Silang, Cavite

Has joined his wife ***JOVITA RAMOS,***
in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord
on January 18, 2002 at the age of 85.

His loving children **CAROL** & **ROY CAPARAS, ROSE** & **OTI MENDOZA, JOANNAH** & **MARNI FULE, MARISSA** & **VICENTE BAUTISTA**; his grandchildren **JODIE, RUSSEL, MANOLO, MARION, MARKIE, MATHEW** & **LUKE**; his brothers and sisters **SOLOMON, TOMAS, BASILIA, ROSARIO, FELICIDAD, LUZ** (†), **SOCORRO** (†); nephews and nieces; and other relatives, request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus De Liguori (Magallanes Chapel, Makati City). He will be transferred to Villa Luz, Silang, Cavite on Monday, January 21, 2002 after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 22, 2002 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Parish Church in Silang, Cavite.

Lourdes "Luding" Adriano de Vera

Of Matimbo, Malolos, Bulacan and Navotas, Metro Manila

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 17, 2002 at the age of 85.

Prayers for the eternal repose of her soul are requested
by her deceased husband **Felix R. de Vera,**
her loving children,

Reynaldo - Adelaida de Vera
Aurora - Remy Castro
Tita - Crispin Corrales
Mamong - Rene Laureano
Mila de Vera
Bonnie - Jaime Culuag
Ric de Vera

Grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends.

Her remains lie in state at their residence at
211 Interior Gov. A. Pascual Street, Sipac, Navotas, Metro Manila.

Interment will be at Immaculate Garden Memorial Park
San Jose, Navotas, Metro Manila,
on Tuesday, January 22, 2002 at 1:00 PM.

SOCORRO CONSUNJI-ESPIRITU, Ph.D.

Passed away on January 17, 2002

Her children **Nora, Roberto** (deceased) and **Maria Luisa Espiritu, Jose** and **Corazon Espiritu**; her grandchildren and other relatives would like to request you to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be announced later.

"Don't be afraid of death. Accept it from now on, generously...
when God wills it, where God wills it, as God wills it.
Don't doubt what I say: it will come at the moment,
in the place and in the way that are best: sent by your Father God."

Our Dad,

Juan Crisostomo Fernando "Jesse" Jalandoni Arnaldo Jr.

peacefully joined our Lord on January 18, 2002 at the age of 65..

We, his family,
His loving wife, **Mila Besa**
His children and in-laws, **John** and **Maylee Puyat, Judy, Jay** and **Sharon Palanca**
His grandchildren, **Jessica, Stephanie,** and **Samantha**
request his relatives and friends to pray for his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Maria dela Strada Parish, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 22, 2002, at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

The wealth of the earth is lavish:
Not a single patch lacks in beauty;
Each flower, awash in color
In the vastness of creation.
Many sights I have relished,
Many places I would have loved to see.
But none compare to the splendor
Of my final destination.

Romualdo "Romy" Tiongson Maclang

of Tarlac City

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 18, 2002 at the age of 60.

His loving wife, **Stella**, children: **Kaye**: **Jay**, and **Ton-Ton**, sister, **Fely** and her husband, **Ruben Arceo**; brother, **Tony** and his wife, **Edna**; relatives; and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

He was cremated at the Loyola Crematory in Gundalupe, City of Makati, on January 18, 2002. His ashes are in Funeraria Enriquez, F. Tuñedo Street, Tarlac City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 22, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Don Bosco Chapel, Santo Cristo, Tarlac City.

CAGAYAN COLLEGES TUGUEGARAO

in memory of its family member

JOSE 'JOJO' PEREZ QUIMPO

December 30, 1952 - January 7, 2002

Together with his mother **MELLITA PEREZ QUIMPO**; wife **MA. ELOISA GAITE QUIMPO**; son **JOEL MATTHEW**; daughter **DONNA MARIE**; brother **BAMBIE** and family; sister **HONEY** and family, extend our most profound gratitude, to friends who condoled with us in our time of bereavement; friends who stood by us, sent beautiful flowers and offered prayers; friends and relatives who came all the way from the North and South; friends from Makati Medical Center whose tender loving care made our Jojo felt special; fraternity brothers from various universities who paid their last respect to our Jojo and most especially, to the U.P. Tau Gamma Phi Alumni who came in full force, made our Jojo shine, took charge and delivered meaningful and heart warming eulogies that will leave endearing memories of our dear Jojo.

Your thoughtful gestures had made a mark in our hearts.

THANK YOU!

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

CARD OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives
of the late

PURA LIBREA ISIDRO

who joined her Creator
on December 10, 2001

Sincerely convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who paid their last respect and grieved with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and who in one way or another assisted and condoled with us and showed love and concern in our time of bereavement.

Thank you.

ESTELITO DELA PAZ BASILIO, SR.

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on January 15, 2002 at the age of 61.

His remains lie in state at Solace 11,
Arlington Memorial Chapels,
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday,
January 20, 2002 at the
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after
the 1:00 PM Mass at the
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church,
Sta. Mesa, Manila.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

Progress in stroke prevention

BY JOVEN CUANANG, M.D.
Contributor

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

THERE is a well-established link between high blood pressure and stroke. Hypertension is the most important risk factor in the development of stroke. It is also the most amenable or responsive risk factor to treatment. Blood pressure reduction has been demonstrated to decrease the risk of a first stroke in hypertensive patients by 25 to 47 percent. However, there is a clinical uncertainty about the effects of lowering the blood pressure in patients with a history of stroke and transient ischemic attack or TIA (warning stroke) particularly those with normal blood pressure.

Few treatments have been proven to reduce the risk for further stroke. Aspirin reduced the risk of repeat stroke by about one quarter among those who have had a stroke or TIA. However, aspirin is not suitable for those who have suffered bleeding in the brain (cerebral hemorrhage), as it may increase the risk of this type of stroke. Until now, no treatment has been shown to prevent recurrence in this group of patients.

Carotid endarterectomy, a procedure that repairs the occluded arteries supplying the brain, can reduce the risk of stroke in those who have suffered a previous stroke or TIA. Anticoagulants or blood thinners can also reduce the risk of stroke in those who have suffered a previous stroke or TIA as a result of irregular beating of the heart called atrial fibrillation. Again, only a limited number of poststroke patients are suited for these types of treatment.

Strong evidence

To fill in the need for a strong evidence on the benefits of lowering blood pressure in patients with a previous stroke, Progress (Perindopril pROtection aGainst Recurrent Stroke Study) was designed by internationally renowned cardiovascular experts to investigate the effects of an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, which is a class of antihypertensive drugs established to have beneficial effects beyond its blood-pressure lowering effect. Perindopril was used in the study and whenever possible, it was combined with the diuretic indapamide. Progress was conducted in 10 countries worldwide including China and Japan. This is one of a few landmark studies giving a good representation of the Asian population. Fifty-nine percent of patients were Caucasians and 38 percent were Asians.

Progress showed an overall 28-percent relative risk reduction in stroke with perindopril-based therapy, regardless of the severity and subtype of stroke, the medical history of the patient and concurrent medications being taken. This was in addition to a 20- percent risk reduction in major cardiovascular events such as heart attacks. Among patients who had previously suffered a brain hemorrhage, risk reduction was as high as 50 percent. The treatment regimen was well tolerated with only a 2 percent difference in the rate of withdrawal compared to those taking placebo (dummy pills).

Safe and effective

Given that the treatment was shown to be safe and effective across a broad range of patients, the results have significant implications for the care of a large proportion of all patients who survived a stroke or suffered a TIA. The results suggest that a 5-year treatment with the drug regimen would prevent one fatal or major nonfatal-vascular event among every 11 patients given the treatment.

These results were even made more significant by the finding that nonhypertensive patients also benefited from the perindopril-based treatment. It was thought that blood pressure lowering drugs were only useful for patients with high blood pressure. With the results of Progress, we now have the evidence that a perindopril-based treatment has beneficial effects, not only for those with high blood pressure, but also for the much larger number of stroke patients with normal blood pressure.

If this treatment is implemented across the world effectively, over half a million strokes could be prevented each year. So real is the challenge for us all that the implementation of these results and their translation into real benefits for our patients with brain and heart diseases will be a real progress in stroke care and management.

(Dr. Cuanang is the current president of the Stroke Society of the Philippines. He is also a member of the scientific advisory board of Charter, acronym for Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Therapies, Epidemiology and Risk management.)

Do you want to join the Monty Hall game show?

EUREKA!
Queena N. Lee-Chua

THE MONTY Hall Show was a popular show on US TV several decades ago—which was not surprising because it involved expensive showcase prizes (most often cars) and what contestants usually believed to be plain good luck. However, math (in this case, probability) lurked in the background, and I am sure the losing contestants now hope they had relied on logic instead of intuition.

So what is this Monty Hall paradox? It has since been discussed in myriads of probability texts, and is now a classic. However, its appeal goes beyond mathematicians. In fact, columnist Marilyn vos Savant wrote about this many years ago and got more than 10,000 letters (many from professional mathematicians) denouncing her answer. (For the record, she was correct.) Over lunch, psychologist Dr. Allen Tan posed the problem to a table of Ateneo faculty and administrators, among them president Fr. Ben Nebres. A lively discussion also ensued.

A reader, Gerry Sibal (gerry_sibal@baxter.com) of Paco, Manila reminded me of Monty Hall with his request:

"I am a regular reader of your column. Truly, the Inquirer found a gem in you! I have come across an interesting website. I would like to solicit your feedback on the topic discussed here: www.grand-illusions.com/monty.htm. Would you agree with the writer or refute his explanation?"

I agree with the writer, and will paraphrase much of his explanation. (His explanation, by the way, is the standard explanation given in books.)

Okay, here is the Monty Hall problem.

Finalists in the game show are invited up on stage where there are three closed doors 1, 2, 3. Monty Hall explains that behind one of the doors is the grand prize (a car). Behind each of the other two doors is a goat. The host invites a contestant to choose one of the three doors.

Suppose the contestant chooses Door 3. Now Monty Hall does not open Door 3, but instead opens one of the other doors (say, Door 1). The door that the host opens will always reveal a goat. (Remember the host knows what is behind every door.)

The contestant is now asked if he wants to stick with his original choice (Door 3) or if he wants to change his mind, and choose the other remaining door that has not yet been opened (Door 2). Should he stick with his first choice or change it?

The answer is: The contestant should change his mind. This runs counter to intuition, doesn't it? After all, he doesn't know which door hides the car, so the chance of the car being behind any one door is one in three. Why should changing his mind change the odds?

Now think hard. When the contestant makes his first choice, his chance of him being correct is one-third. If he sticks with his original choice, the probability remains the same (of course).

Now what happens if he changes his mind? Instead of using theory here, a better explanation may be simulation.

Let us assume that the contestant originally chooses Door 3. The table below gives the possible scenarios.

Door 1	Door 2	Door 3	Outcome
car	Goat	Goat	Win
goat	car	Goat	Win
goat	goat	Car	Lose

The contestant's chance of being right initially is one in three. But now in both the first two cases, the host opens a door revealing a goat, and the contestant changes his mind—and two times out of three he will be right. Two out of three is better than one out of three, right?

Most people still don't get it at this point.

Think of another scenario. What if there are 100 doors, with a car behind only one of them? You choose a door. Your chance of being right is 1 in 100. Now the host opens 98 of the remaining 99 doors, in each case, revealing a goat. You can now either stick with your original choice, or you can switch to the remaining closed door. If you switch, you have a 99 in 100 chance of being right.

I know many of you still don't like this answer. Perhaps you should get your hands dirty and try out the problem yourself. Go to the website and run the simulation. (For statistics fans, the solution revolves around conditional probability.)

Sibal still has another puzzle on the same site. He continues, "Go to this url: www.grand-illusions.com/triangle.htm. I am sure you will find it interesting. It shows the relationship of math and psychology. Illusion is a subject in psychology, right?"

Illusion is taken up in math, psychology and art. Thank you for sharing with us this website, and after going through it myself, I recommend it highly to readers with inquiring minds.

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes a Wednesday column, "Mind Games," for www.inq7.net. Send your letters c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Mathematics Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

COPD: World's No. 5 killer disease by 2020

SOME 2.74 million people worldwide died of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in year 2000. As a single cause of death, the disease shares fourth and fifth place with HIV/AIDS, after coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and acute respiratory infection.

The prevalence of COPD in the Asia-Pacific region and strategies for managing the burden of this disease were key issues discussed at a recent regional conference held in Hong Kong. Sponsored by leading global respiratory care provider Boehringer Ingelheim, a leading global provider of respiratory care, the conference brought together respiratory experts from within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region to explore ways to better diagnose and manage COPD.

The prevalence of COPD and its potential to rise by alarming rates are attributed to a lack of awareness of the existence of this disease, as its symptoms are often mistaken for other respiratory ailments like asthma, emphysema and bronchitis.

What is COPD?

COPD is a chronic respiratory disorder that progressively worsens lung function and limits airflow. Its symptoms include shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing and increased sputum production. The disease progresses with age, leading to disability to perform usual daily activities and early death.

According to the annual world health report of the World Health Organization, about 600 million people suffer from COPD. While smoking is the main cause of COPD, with up to 90 percent of all COPD patients being smokers, passive exposure to cigarette smoke, and exposure to severe air pollution also contribute to the development of COPD.

COPD in Asia Pacific

Alarmingly, the disease is likely to become a significant problem in Asia-Pacific countries, according to a study unveiled at the Hong Kong COPD conference. The study investigated the prevalence of COPD in 12 Asia-Pacific countries, and estimated that on average, moderate to severe cases of COPD afflicts 6.3 percent of the region's population.

"This is considerably higher than the rate of 3.9 percent initially estimated by the WHO," said Prof. Paul Seale, the pro-dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney, Australia. "Whereas other global diseases like tuberculosis and HIV are predicted to decline over the next 20 years, the incidence of COPD is expected to increase," he added.

Prof. Mary Ip, an associate dean with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Hong Kong, said the main challenge to managing COPD in Asia Pacific is getting both governments and communities to recognize the importance of reducing the main causes of the disease, such as smoking, and getting people to recognize the disease and seek early treatment.

A World Bank/WHO study ranked this relatively unknown killer as the 12th burden of disease in 1990, and is expected to rise to the fifth ranked burden of disease by the year 2020.

ASK THE DENTIST
PAUL R. DE CASTRO, DMD

Bad breath in the morning

MY wife says my breath smells so bad in the morning and she won't come near me. She says it's because I don't brush my teeth. I brush my teeth twice a day despite my busy schedule. Isn't that enough?
—Mark T.

You are supposed to brush your teeth after every meal. If you eat before bedtime then you are supposed to brush afterward. It is possible that you have crowns or teeth that have a certain shape that make them more difficult to clean. Aside from brushing, I would advise you to floss and use an oral irrigator if you want to eliminate all the food and plaque from your teeth. Brushing your tongue also helps cut down the morning breath smell. When you are awake, your saliva helps in washing away the food in your mouth. But when you sleep there is less saliva and any food left in your mouth is not washed away and tends to smell like rotten food in the morning.

* * *

Your questions are welcome at dentalqs@yahoo.com. The author is a general and cosmetic dentist licensed here and in the United States.

SCISCOPE

Cancer week celebration

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Hospital is celebrating until today National Cancer Consciousness Week with several activities in cooperation with its Divisions of Anatomic Pathology, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Surgery. The USTH outpatient department is offering free services for Pap's Smear test, fine needle aspiration biopsy of breast masses, rectal examinations for prostate cancer as well as free processing and interpretation of these tests. With this year's theme, "USTH goes KKK (Kailangang Kaalaman sa Kanser) sa Kabataan," the USTH Cancer Consciousness committee is launching an information and awareness campaign focusing on the causes, symptoms and treatment of cancer as well as some preventive measures to stop the occurrence of this disease affecting all ages. Film showings on cancer consciousness will also be held in the different departments of the University of Santo Tomas. Information materials were distributed during the organized "Alay Lakad," participated in by cancer patients and other cause-oriented groups.

Imiquimod symposium

3M PHARMACEUTICALS will sponsor a dinner symposium for dermatologists and health professionals on Jan. 22 at the New World Hotel in Makati City. Titled "Imiquimod: Key to Unlocking the Immune System," the symposium will discuss and assess the potential uses of Aldara (Imiquimod) cream apart and beyond the treatment of genital warts. Guest speaker is Dr. Stephen Peter Shumack, head of the dermatology department and VMO of St. George Hospital, University of New South Wales. Other panelists are Dr. Georgina Pastorfide, clinical associate professor of UP-PGH; Dr. Marcellano Cruz, head of the HIV action team of the East Avenue Hospital; and Dr. Evangeline Handog, president of the Philippine Society of Cutaneous Medicine.

PHA media forum

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit will be the guest of honor of the Philippine Heart Association when it holds its first Puso sa Puso PHA Media Forum for the year on Jan. 25 at Annabel's Restaurant, Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The PHA's officers and other heart specialists will again share with the members of the media ways on how to lower, if not prevent the incidence of cardiovascular disease, the No. 1 killer disease here and around the world. During the forum, the PHA will also announce the many ways it will commemorate its 50th anniversary. The celebration theme is "50 Years of Continuing Commitment Toward Cardiovascular Excellence and Health." The PHA's 50th anniversary observance will kick off with the activities and programs for the annual celebration of Heart Month in February.

The case of the dyslexic debater

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, M.D.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

LUKE B., an 18-year-old college sophomore, is a gifted public speaker. He is a member of his college debating team. He seems to have no problem expressing his thoughts and ideas verbally. Public speaking is second nature to him and his spoken words just flow with ease and clarity. His stock knowledge on practically all topics under the sun—from politics to economics, sociology to contemporary fashion—seems to be as deep as his enthusiasm to communicate his thoughts effectively before big audiences.

It is no surprise that Luke has become the envy of his peers in school. Only a few people know that he has dyslexia, which is primarily a specific language-based learning disability that interferes with learning words and reading despite above-average intelligence and normal eyesight and hearing.

Everything looks perfect for Luke except that when it comes to writing, people have difficulty understanding what he wants to convey. Almost 15 percent of the entire global population suffer from this reading disorder, which tends to run in the family and is seen more in boys than girls.

Luke was not able to read until he was 8. Armed with sheer determination and the persevering support of his parents and private tutor, he was able to overcome his dyslexia and perform better in school. He showed so much thirst for knowledge, supplementing his readings with educational tapes. Despite his learning disorder, he landed among the top in high school.

Difficulty with words

Dyslexia, also known as developmental reading disorder (DRD), is basically a difficulty with words. It is one type of specific learning disability (SLD) that affects one's ability to read and write. It is directly attributed to the inability to process graphic symbols due to a defect of the higher centers in the brain responsible for processing symbols. Cultural and educational shortfalls, emotional dilemmas and mental disorders can also cause learning disabilities. Dyslexia is present at birth and oftentimes hereditary. Yet, this disorder does not affect one's intellectual capacity, as in Luke's case.

MEDICAL FILES

Dyslexics are often gifted people whose IQs range from average to above average. Many dyslexics, living or dead, are overachievers in their chosen field of profession. The impressive list is reported to include physicist Albert Einstein, statesmen Winston Churchill and King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, artists Leonardo da Vinci, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol, thespians Whoopi Goldberg and Tom Cruise, writers Agatha Christie and W. B. Yeats, and boxing champ Muhammad Ali.

Given the proper training and information, a dyslexic can use his natural abilities to shift perceptions, enhance his creativity, refine his way of thinking, and improve physical performance. The disorder only becomes a disability when uncorrected perceptual distortions occur, creating confusion and conflicting information, which cannot be processed clearly.

Understanding dyslexia

The study of dyslexia and language disorders started during the latter half of the 19th century. During the 1860s, western medical researchers noted that some patients who had suffered a brain injury or a cerebral vascular injury lost the ability to read and speak, a condition known as *aphasia*.

Dr. Kussmal, a renowned German physician during his time, noted that the ability to read might be lost independent of the ability to see or speak. He called this condition *alexia* which means word-blindness.

Another important contribution to the understanding of dyslexia was made by renowned American psychiatrist and neurologist Samuel Orton. He observed reading and writing disorders in ambidextrous children and found out that most of them had a tendency to reverse letters and transpose their order.

Luke can still vividly remember how hard it was during his first years in school when he was thought to be either lazy or mentally retarded.

"I spent my elementary school years with language teachers telling my mom I was a lazy student and was a slow reader," Luke recalls. "I was terribly shy back then. I excelled in mathematics and science, however I could not memorize my mathematics tables. I even substituted the division sign for the multiplication sign and that made my grades suffer. My spelling, grammar and language subjects were even worse," recounts Luke.

The disadvantages of dyslexia may include inability to read, write, spell, compute math, organize, memorize, or pay attention. In Luke's case, he has difficulty reading and writing because he cannot remember letters, so he substitutes one letter for the other "b" for "d," "w" for "m," "I" for "j" and so on. Often, he cannot write the words that he wants to write due to reversals, substitutions, omissions and additions of letters, syllables or words brought about by the disorder.

Determined to do everything they could to help their child, Luke's parents brought him to a doctor for evaluation when he was in grade school. After a thorough examination, the attending physician said that Luke had no brain damage, his sight was near perfect, and he was also very intelligent. A diagnosis of dyslexia was made.

The doctor advised Luke's parents that the first step in helping a dyslexic is to provide him emotional support and understanding. He also advised them to transfer Luke to a school that fully understands the complexities of dyslexia and hire a language tutor that will help improve Luke's language ability.

Enhancing the learning process

Experts on dyslexia recommend the following to enhance the learning process of afflicted individuals:

- Utilization of multisensory teaching approach that features role playing techniques.
- Explanation of abstract concepts by common materials, relating it to daily life, and task demonstration.
- Talking to students about their experiences and making them perform tasks that build their confidence and strengths.
- Frequent positive feedback if the student deserves it to give them a feeling of success and set them up for bigger tasks.
- Making all directions specific, concrete and understandable.
- Explaining and demonstrating how to use text aids such as study guides. Personalizing information and encouraging small group discussions. Clarifying points, relationships of ideas and expectations before class begins.
- Allowing taping of lecture, use of scratch paper, calculator and dictionary.
- Allowing time to reflect on new materials and concepts with discussion afterward.

Gifted in public speaking

With unstinting support and assistance from his parents and tutor, Luke gained enough confidence and soon realized that he was gifted in public speaking. He cultivated this talent and since high school, he has joined and successfully won various speech contests like oratorical contests, extemporaneous speaking and interschool debating competitions.

"I might not be able to express my thoughts through writing but at least I am able to communicate well through the spoken word," says Luke with confidence. He is no longer afraid to talk about dyslexia and he is a staunch advocate for the better understanding of his disease.

Next school year, Luke will take six units of French for his compulsory European language course but after everything that he's been through, he is confident that he will pass the course. He realizes though that he will again have to make double effort to learn new words, especially in a new language. He's now practicing how to enthusiastically greet someone in French, never mind if it would take him some time before he could spell *bonjour mademoiselle* correctly.

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Some information has been changed to hide the patient's identity. Aside from the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of disease on the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

Progress in stroke prevention

BY JOVEN CUANANG, M.D.
Contributor

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THERE is a well-established link between high blood pressure and stroke. Hypertension is the most important risk factor in the development of stroke. It is also the most amenable or responsive risk factor to treatment. Blood pressure reduction has been demonstrated to decrease the risk of a first stroke in hypertensive patients by 25 to 47 percent. However, there is a clinical uncertainty about the effects of lowering the blood pressure in patients with a history of stroke and transient ischemic attack or TIA (warning stroke) particularly those with normal blood pressure.

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Suppose the contestant chooses Door 3. Now Monty Hall does not open Door 3, but instead opens one of the other doors (say, Door 1). The door that the host opens will always reveal a goat. (Remember the host knows what is behind every door.)

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The answer is: The contestant should change his mind. This runs counter to intuition, doesn't it? After all, he doesn't know which door hides the car, so the chance of the car being behind any one door is one in three. Why should changing his mind change the odds?

Now think hard. When the contestant makes his first choice, his chance of him being correct is one-third. If he sticks with his original choice, the probability remains the same (of course).

Now what happens if he changes his mind? Instead of using theory here, a better explanation may be simulation.

Let us assume that the contestant originally chooses Door 3. The table below gives the possible scenarios.

Door 1	Door 2	Door 3	Outcome
car	Goat	Goat	Win
goat	car	Goat	Win
goat	goat	Car	Lose

The contestant's chance of being right initially is one in three. But now in both the first two cases, the host opens a door revealing a goat, and the contestant changes his mind—and two times out of three he will be right. Two out of three is better than one out of three, right?

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Sibal still has another puzzle on the same site. He continues, "Go to this url: www.grand-illusions.com/triangle.htm. I am sure you will find it interesting. It shows the relationship of math and psychology. Illusion is a subject in psychology, right?"

Illusion is taken up in math, psychology and art. Thank you for sharing with us this website, and after going through it myself, I recommend it highly to readers with inquiring minds.

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes a Wednesday column, "Mind Games," for www.inq7.net. Send your letters c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Mathematics Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

COPD: World's No. 5 killer disease by 2020

SOME 2.74 million people worldwide died of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in year 2000. As a single cause of death, the disease shares fourth and fifth place with HIV/AIDS, after coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and acute respiratory infection.

The prevalence of COPD in the Asia-Pacific region and strategies for managing the burden of this disease were key issues discussed at a recent regional conference held in Hong Kong. Sponsored by leading global respiratory care provider Boehringer Ingelheim, a leading global provider of respiratory care, the conference brought together respiratory experts from within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region to explore ways to better diagnose and manage COPD.

The prevalence of COPD and its potential to rise by alarming rates are attributed to a lack of awareness of the existence of this disease, as its symptoms are often mistaken for other respiratory ailments like asthma, emphysema and bronchitis.

What is COPD?

COPD is a chronic respiratory disorder that progressively worsens lung function and limits airflow. Its symptoms include shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing and increased sputum production. The disease progresses with age, leading to disability to perform usual daily activities and early death.

According to the annual world health report of the World Health Organization, about 600 million people suffer from COPD. While smoking is the main cause of COPD, with up to 90 percent of all COPD patients being smokers, passive exposure to cigarette smoke, and exposure to severe air pollution also contribute to the development of COPD.

COPD in Asia Pacific

Alarmingly, the disease is likely to become a significant problem in Asia-Pacific countries, according to a study unveiled at the Hong Kong COPD conference. The study investigated the prevalence of COPD in 12 Asia-Pacific countries, and estimated that on average, moderate to severe cases of COPD afflicts 6.3 percent of the region's population.

"This is considerably higher than the rate of 3.9 percent initially estimated by the WHO," said Prof. Paul Seale, the pro-dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney, Australia. "Whereas other global diseases like tuberculosis and HIV are predicted to decline over the next 20 years, the incidence of COPD is expected to increase," he added.

Prof. Mary Ip, an associate dean with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Hong Kong, said the main challenge to managing COPD in Asia Pacific is getting both governments and communities to recognize the importance of reducing the main causes of the disease, such as smoking, and getting people to recognize the disease and seek early treatment.

A World Bank/WHO study ranked this relatively unknown killer as the 12th burden of disease in 1990, and is expected to rise to the fifth ranked burden of disease by the year 2020.

ASK THE DENTIST
PAUL R. DE CASTRO, DMD

Bad breath in the morning

MY wife says my breath smells so bad in the morning and she won't come near me. She says it's because I don't brush my teeth. I brush my teeth twice a day despite my busy schedule. Isn't that enough?
—Mark T.

You are supposed to brush your teeth after every meal. If you eat before bedtime then you are supposed to brush afterward. It is possible that you have crowns or teeth that have a certain shape that make them more difficult to clean. Aside from brushing, I would advise you to floss and use an oral irrigator if you want to eliminate all the food and plaque from your teeth. Brushing your tongue also helps cut down the morning breath smell. When you are awake, your saliva helps in washing away the food in your mouth. But when you sleep there is less saliva and any food left in your mouth is not washed away and tends to smell like rotten food in the morning.

* * *

Your questions are welcome at dentalqs@yahoo.com. The author is a general and cosmetic dentist licensed here and in the United States.

SCISCOPE

Cancer week celebration

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Hospital is celebrating until today National Cancer Consciousness Week with several activities in cooperation with its Divisions of Anatomic Pathology, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Surgery. The USTH outpatient department is offering free services for Pap's Smear test, fine needle aspiration biopsy of breast masses, rectal examinations for prostate cancer as well as free processing and interpretation of these tests. With this year's theme, "USTH goes KKK (Kailangang Kaalaman sa Kanser) sa Kabataan," the USTH Cancer Consciousness committee is launching an information and awareness campaign focusing on the causes, symptoms and treatment of cancer as well as some preventive measures to stop the occurrence of this disease affecting all ages. Film showings on cancer consciousness will also be held in the different departments of the University of Santo Tomas. Information materials were distributed during the organized "Alay Lakad," participated in by cancer patients and other cause-oriented groups.

Imiquimod symposium

3M PHARMACEUTICALS will sponsor a dinner symposium for dermatologists and health professionals on Jan. 22 at the New World Hotel in Makati City. Titled "Imiquimod: Key to Unlocking the Immune System," the symposium will discuss and assess the potential uses of Aldara (Imiquimod) cream apart and beyond the treatment of genital warts. Guest speaker is Dr. Stephen Peter Shumack, head of the dermatology department and VMO of St. George Hospital, University of New South Wales. Other panelists are Dr. Georgina Pastorfide, clinical associate professor of UP-PGH; Dr. Marcellano Cruz, head of the HIV action team of the East Avenue Hospital; and Dr. Evangeline Hartzog, president of the Philippine Society of Cutaneous Medicine.

PHA media forum

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit will be the guest of honor of the Philippine Heart Association when it holds its first Puso sa Puso PHA Media Forum for the year on Jan. 25 at Annabel's Restaurant, Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The PHA's officers and other heart specialists will again share with the members of the media ways on how to lower, if not prevent the incidence of cardiovascular disease, the No. 1 killer disease here and around the world. During the forum, the PHA will also announce the many ways it will commemorate its 50th anniversary. The celebration theme is "50 Years of Continuing Commitment Toward Cardiovascular Excellence and Health." The PHA's 50th anniversary observance will kick off with the activities and programs for the annual celebration of Heart Month in February.

The case of the dyslexic debater

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, M.D.

LUKE B., an 18-year-old college sophomore, is a gifted public speaker. He is a member of his college debating team. He seems to have no problem expressing his thoughts and ideas verbally. Public speaking is second nature to him and his spoken words just flow with ease and clarity. His stock knowledge on practically all topics under the sun—from politics to economics, sociology to contemporary fashion—seems to be as deep as his enthusiasm to communicate his thoughts effectively before big audiences.

It is no surprise that Luke has become the envy of his peers in school. Only a few people know that he has dyslexia, which is primarily a specific language-based learning disability that interferes with learning words and reading despite above-average intelligence and normal eyesight and hearing.

Everything looks perfect for Luke except that when it comes to writing, people have difficulty understanding what he wants to convey. Almost 15 percent of the entire global population suffer from this reading disorder, which tends to run in the family and is seen more in boys than girls.

Luke was not able to read until he was 8. Armed with sheer determination and the persevering support of his parents and private tutor, he was able to overcome his dyslexia and perform better in school. He showed so much thirst for knowledge, supplementing his readings with educational tapes. Despite his learning disorder, he landed among the top in high school.

Difficulty with words

Dyslexia, also known as developmental reading disorder (DRD), is basically a difficulty with words. It is one type of specific learning disability (SLD) that affects one's ability to read and write. It is directly attributed to the inability to process graphic symbols due to a defect of the higher centers in the brain responsible for processing symbols. Cultural and educational shortfalls, emotional dilemmas and mental disorders can also cause learning disabilities. Dyslexia is present at birth and oftentimes hereditary. Yet, this disorder does not affect one's intellectual capacity, as in Luke's case.

Dyslexics are often gifted people whose IQs range from average to above average. Many dyslexics, living or dead, are overachievers in their chosen field of profession. The impressive list is reported to include physicist Albert Einstein, statesmen Winston Churchill and King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, artists Leonardo da Vinci, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol, thespians Whoopi Goldberg and Tom Cruise, writers Agatha Christie and W. B. Yeats, and boxing champ Muhammad Ali.

Given the proper training and information, a dyslexic can use his natural abilities to shift perceptions, enhance his creativity, refine his way of thinking, and improve physical performance. The disorder only becomes a disability when uncorrected perceptual distortions occur, creating confusion and conflicting information, which cannot be processed clearly.

Understanding dyslexia

The study of dyslexia and language disorders started during the latter half of the 19th century. During the 1860s, western medical researchers noted that some patients who had suffered a brain injury or a cerebral vascular injury lost the ability to read and speak, a condition known as *aphasia*.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Dr. Kussmal, a renowned German physician during his time, noted that the ability to read might be lost independent of the ability to see or speak. He called this condition *alexia* which means word-blindness.

MEDICAL FILES

Another important contribution to the understanding of dyslexia was made by renowned American psychiatrist and neurologist Samuel Orton. He observed reading and writing disorders in ambidextrous children and found out that most of them had a tendency to reverse letters and transpose their order.

Luke can still vividly remember how hard it was during his first years in school when he was thought to be either lazy or mentally retarded.

"I spent my elementary school years with language teachers telling my mom I was a lazy student and was a slow reader," Luke recalls. "I was terribly shy back then. I excelled in mathematics and science, however I could not memorize my mathematics tables. I even substituted the division sign for the multiplication sign and that made my grades suffer. My spelling, grammar and language subjects were even worse," recounts Luke.

The disadvantages of dyslexia may include inability to read, write, spell, compute math, organize, memorize, or pay attention. In Luke's case, he has difficulty reading and writing because he cannot remember letters, so he substitutes one letter for the other "b" for "d," "w" for "m," "I" for "j" and so on. Often, he cannot write the words that he wants to write due to reversals, substitutions, omissions and additions of letters, syllables or words brought about by the disorder.

Determined to do everything they could to help their child, Luke's parents brought him to a doctor for evaluation when he was in grade school. After a thorough examination, the attending physician said that Luke had no brain damage, his sight was near perfect, and he was also very intelligent. A diagnosis of dyslexia was made.

The doctor advised Luke's parents that the first step in helping a dyslexic is to provide him emotional support and understanding. He also advised them to transfer Luke to a school that fully understands the complexities of dyslexia and hire a language tutor that will help improve Luke's language ability.

Enhancing the learning process

Experts on dyslexia recommend the following to enhance the learning process of afflicted individuals:

- Utilization of multisensory teaching approach that features role playing techniques.
- Explanation of abstract concepts by common materials, relating it to daily life, and task demonstration.
- Talking to students about their experiences and making them perform tasks that build their confidence and strengths.
- Frequent positive feedback if the student deserves it to give them a feeling of success and set them up for bigger tasks.
- Making all directions specific, concrete and understandable.
- Explaining and demonstrating how to use text aids such as study guides. Personalizing information and encouraging small group discussions. Clarifying points, relationships of ideas and expectations before class begins.
- Allowing taping of lecture, use of scratch paper, calculator and dictionary.
- Allowing time to reflect on new materials and concepts with discussion afterward.

Gifted in public speaking

With unstinting support and assistance from his parents and tutor, Luke gained enough confidence and soon realized that he was gifted in public speaking. He cultivated this talent and since high school, he has joined and successfully won various speech contests like oratorical contests, extemporaneous speaking and interschool debating competitions.

"I might not be able to express my thoughts through writing but at least I am able to communicate well through the spoken word," says Luke with confidence. He is no longer afraid to talk about dyslexia and he is a staunch advocate for the better understanding of his disease.

Next school year, Luke will take six units of French for his compulsory European language course but after everything that he's been through, he is confident that he will pass the course. He realizes though that he will again have to make double effort to learn new words, especially in a new language. He's now practicing how to enthusiastically greet someone in French, never mind if it would take him some time before he could spell *bonjour mademoiselle* correctly.

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Some information has been changed to hide the patient's identity. Aside from the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of disease on the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

ACCESS TO MORPHINE

Problem for cancer patients in provinces

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

WRITHE and die in pain. It's about the only thing you can do if you have cancer and live outside the cities.

This is what the majority of cancer patients experience in the provinces. They have little or no access to pain relievers, said the Philippine Cancer Society (PCS). As a result, every minute of the remaining time of patients with advanced stages of cancer are pitifully spent in utter agony.

The PCS said about 85 percent of Filipino doctors who have a license to issue prescription drugs for cancer pain is based in Metro Manila. As a result, the availability of morphine and fentanyl cytrate—two drugs recommended by Filipino oncologists to relieve pain—becomes a problem for cancer sufferers in the provinces.

If they want to get a prescription to relieve their cancer pain, they have to travel to Manila to find doctors who have an S2 license.

S2 is a license for medical practitioners—physicians, dentists or veterinarians—that allows them to prescribe and administer dangerous drugs.

Any doctor can apply for an S2 license. He or she just needs to present his Professional Regulation Commission license and professional tax receipt to the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB). Doctors in the provinces can also apply for a license in regional drug regulation offices of the Bureau of Food and Drug.

Pain relievers underutilized

There are 21,000 registered doctors who have S2 licenses in the Philippines, according to the DDB. And there are 95,000 PRC-registered medical practitioners, said Mae Unite, acting chief of the DDB control regulation intelligence division.

"These (pain relievers) should be easily available to patients nationwide. But as of now, they are not. The availability is underutilized. There are a lot of stocks but not all are used," said Dr. Antonio Villalon, PCS oncologist and president of the Philippine College of Physicians.

Villalon said most doctors in the provinces see no need for an S2 license. Part of the reason, he said, was that only a few cancer patients asked for their help on a daily basis. Another reason, he said, was the costly fee for an S2 license.

The S2 licensing fee costs P1,500, which is good for three years. The DDB had increased its original fee of P500 per year on Nov. 5. Before 1991, the cost was only P150.

Doctors renew their S2 license in January. Those who are getting an S2 license for the first time should personally appear before the DDB. For the succeeding years, the doctors can send authorized representatives to submit their renewal forms with their original licenses.

The yellow prescription pad, meanwhile, [illegible] 00. A pad has 25 sheets.

Strict use of pain relievers

Morphine is the pain reliever of choice for advanced cancer cases. It could be administered orally or intravenously.

The World Health Organization has recommended that morphine be packed in uniform 10 mg, 20 mg and 30 mg tablets to follow a three-step ladder. Increasing pain means increasing the dosage, said Unite.

The WHO recommends that doctors should only give the drug intravenously when the patient's cancer is already in its final stages.

The transdermal patch fentanyl, meanwhile, also effectively relieves pain. Its effect lasts three days. But the prescription for fentanyl cydrate is limited.

Codeine, another dangerous drug, is used primarily to relieve coughing.

Unite explained that morphine, hydrocodone (a strong pain reliever still subject to approval by the BFAD) and codeine are extracted from opium. The use of these substances is allowed for medicinal purposes only.

"Morphine and demerol relieve cancer patients' pain. In 1989, an oncology group recommended to the DDB these two drugs. The DDB did not consider codeine that time. Recently, however, it recommended that only morphine and fentanyl cydrate (be used for cancer pain)," Unite said.

Not compulsory

Unite said only a few doctors have S2 licenses because they are not compulsory for medical practitioners and not all doctors treat cancer patients. But during the term of Health Secretary Jesus Azurin, S2 licenses were compulsory for government doctors, she said.

Unite added that it was understandable why some doctors were not too confident in getting S2 licenses—one wrong prescription could cost them their medical license. She urged the DOH to help educate medical practitioners so they would have no second thoughts about acquiring S2 licenses and prescribing drugs for cancer pain.

Risky business

PCS corporate affairs head Sylvia C. Palma said that apart from a few hospital pharmacies, only Mercury Drug stores sell morphine. Other drug stores don't want to sell morphine because they consider it "very risky."

The DDB has so many requirements and drug abusers who want to buy the drug but are refused by the store could turn violent.

Also, morphine sales are "slow" because only a few doctors have yellow prescription pads for them.

In 1998, the Institute of Health Policy and Development Statistics of the University of the Philippines Manila's National Institutes of Health estimated that there would be 71,000 new cancer cases in the country every year. Of these, 37,000 would die within the year.

For most of these four Filipinos who die of cancer every hour, dying is painfully worse than death itself.

RP inventor wins gold in Asia-Pacific tilt

A BIOLOGY graduate student of the University of Santo Tomas won the top prize in the 2001 Young Inventors Awards for developing a simple and cheap way to test water for harmful toxins.

The Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER) in association with Hewlett-Packard announced that the Young Inventors' Gold Award went to Edward Quinto of Manila.

He bested nearly 220 entries from universities in Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

Quinto used microscopic light-producing organisms from squid and stuck them to small paper discs to test water for toxins. When the organisms multiply on the paper discs, they glow bluish-green in the dark. Once immersed in water, the paper disc will continue to glow if the water is clean but will fade if harmful toxic chemicals are present.

"What the judges particularly liked about Mr. Quinto's project was that it had immediate local application at an affordable cost and could help improve the quality of life not just in the Philippines but across many countries in Asia," said Hong Kong judge Chang Sun, managing director of Warburg Pincus Asia LLC.

Idea from family dinner

Quinto recounts that he got the idea for his project in a serendipitous manner: "My family had just had squid for dinner and my brother threw out the remains of the squid. He noticed that the squid was glowing in the dark and showed it to me. So it was an accidental discovery, really. It reinforced an earlier notion of mine that large concentrations of bacteria can be trapped in small material and can readily be seen."

EDWARD Quinto (right), grand prize winner of the 2001 Young Inventors Awards, tells HP Philippines president Raymund del Val how he came up with his winning invention: a squid-based water toxin test.

Since bioluminescence had always interested him, Quinto decided to pursue his hunch by inventing a simple, cheap way to test tap or well water for the presence of heavy metals or identify pollution in rivers or lakes near industrial plants.

His method serves as an efficient, locally applicable solution without having to use expensive and sophisticated equipment.

Quinto modestly acknowledges his victory with a quote from another award-winning inventor: "As Albert Einstein once said, 'Chance favors the prepared mind'."

"I hope that winning this contest will serve as an inspiration to young budding scientists all over the country. Let your imagination soar free to new heights of scientific innovation to further uplift the quality of life," Quinto said.

Other winners

The Silver went to Bini Thumbarathy Balakrishnan, a mechanical engineering doctoral student at the National University of Singapore, for making biodegradable tubes regenerate and grow nerves without the need for autograft surgery. Yu Chen-chi, a doctoral student from Taiwan's National Cheng Kung University, got the bronze for developing an oral fish vaccine.

The Young Inventors Award was established to "honor the spirit of invention among students in Asia," said Michael Vatikiotis, FEER editor.

"With governments in the region betting on science and technology to fuel future economic growth, we hope that this awards program will help promote and encourage inventiveness of Asia's young minds that will be the key to the region's growth," he said.

The judges ranked each entry on a scale of zero to five according to three categories: level of creativity, quality of execution, and potential impact on the quality of life.

Awards sponsor Hewlett-Packard will give computer systems to the three top students. In addition, HP will fly the winners to Palo Alto, California for a tour of HP Labs.

The winning universities will also receive prizes to encourage them to further their research projects. The FEER will award $7,500 to the university with the winning project, $5,000 to the second placer, and $2,500 to the third placer.

Polycom, a leader in video conferencing, will give Viavideo sets to the first prize winner and to his sponsoring university.

The awarding ceremony will be held in Hong Kong on Feb. 28.

US experts okay laser eye surgery

WASHINGTON—Years after Lasik eye surgery hit the billion-dollar mark as an industry, the group representing US ophthalmologists gave a qualified endorsement on Tuesday to the popular procedure.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology said it had found Lasik to be safe and effective for correcting low-to-moderate myopia (nearsightedness) and astigmatism.

The group, which represents 27,000 eye doctors, said the procedure is less predictable for moderate-to-high myopia and astigmatism.

"Lasik is an excellent procedure for many, but not all, patients," Dr. Christopher Rapuano, who chaired the committee that assessed Lasik, said in a statement.

"Those who are not good candidates should not have the surgery. Surgical complications, though rare, do occur, but advances in excimer laser technology and newer microkeratomes may help further decrease the small percentage of surgical problems we have seen in the past."

Laser in-situ keratomileusis (Lasik) involves peeling back a flap of the cornea (the clear covering of the eyeball) and removing tissue

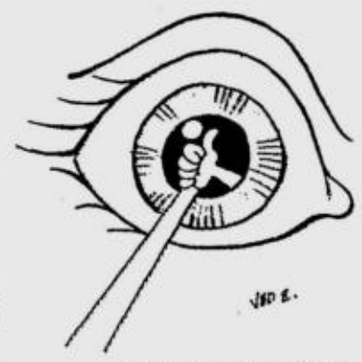


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

beneath using the laser. It reshapes the eye and can correct myopia, astigmatism and farsightedness (hyperopia), although not the kind that comes with age, which is called presbyopia.

The extremely popular surgical procedure takes just a few seconds. Patients report that it usually involves little discomfort.

But in about 2 percent of cases, complications can arise. They range from permanent blindness to dry eyes, nighttime starbursts and reduced sensitivity to contrast.

Reuters

Safe, effective and affordable anti-diabetic drink

DOCTORS' GROUP ENDORSES AMPALAYA TEA AS DIETARY SUPPLEMENT FOR CONTROL OF DIABETES

The Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (AMHOP), composed of doctors who run the country's municipal health centers, has officially endorsed a herbal tea product made from fruits and seeds of the Ampalaya as a "safe and effective dietary adjunct in the treatment of diabetes." The AMHOP endorsement also cited that since municipal health centers serve the sector of society who has difficulty meeting the high cost of medicine, the affordability of a product is a major consideration in their choice of what to give their patients in order to ensure their long-term compliance needed in the effective management of diabetes.

Dr. Guia Abad, AMHOP National President and Municipal Health Officer of Sta Cruz, Laguna, said that they have tested and found the ampalaya tea product, commercially known under the brand name of CHARANTIA Ampalaya Health Drink, not only safe and effective, but also priced within the reach of the special sector that AMHOP members serve thus prodding the AMHOP to take the unprecedented step of officially endorsing CHARANTIA to their diabetic patients. Dr. Abad also revealed that in many cases, after CHARANTIA was added to the daily diet of their diabetic patients, they are able to slowly reduce their patients' more expensive medication and still keep their blood sugar at manageable level. "This is very important since diabetes requires a life-long management and any reduction in its cost would ensure better compliance by our poor patients," Dr. Abad emphasized.

The ampalaya (scientific name: Momordica charantia) has long been used as traditional medicine for diabetes and in 1995, the Department of Health certified that its anti-diabetic properties has been scientifically validated. The DOH currently actively promotes the use of ampalaya as a safe alternative medicine for type 2 diabetes. Worldwide researches have also validated the ampalaya's antidiabetic potency and these studies have identified the ampalaya's fruits and seeds as its more potent parts. A recent clinical trial of CHARANTIA Ampalaya Health Drink (the only ampalaya product using fruits and seeds) involving 23 diabetics has also concluded that it is a safe and effective adjunct in the treatment of Type 2 diabetes. CHARANTIA is especially good for diabetics with constipation as it helps promote regular bowel movement.

CHARANTIA Ampalaya Health Drink is manufactured by the Herbcare Enterprise and is available in Loose Bits and Tea Bags through leading drugstores, health shops and selected supermarkets nationwide. It is the country's No. 1 selling ampalaya food supplement and is also now being exported to the USA, Europe, Africa and several other countries. CHARANTIA will also soon be available in 500mg capsules. For inquiries call: Tel 8022222.

Wind as alternative power source

BY ANNA PINEDA
Contributor

A DECADE ago, a US-based Filipino inventor devised a system to generate additional energy from a constant source. Dr. Leonardo M. Gasendo's Superwindmill could convert the country's limitless supply of wind energy into a cheap and equally limitless electrical power supply.

Gasendo came up with a 100-foot diameter windmill that could generate more than 1,000 horsepower with 60 kph winds coursing through its 12 sails.

The unique design of its sail placements could generate more horsepower than 100 units of vane-type windmills and could operate efficiently at a wide range of wind velocities that prevail in this tropical country.

According to Gasendo, a Superwindmill farm could store electrical energy in large storage batteries sufficient enough for continuous power supply to towns and cities. He estimated then that about 2,000 of these Superwindmills were enough to provide power to Metro Manila, even during peak hours.

Bamboo, canvas, plywood

It doesn't cost much to build one, said Gasendo.

Windmills can be made out of bamboo poles, canvas sails and plywood. The possibility of using low-cost construction materials makes the Superwindmill a very attractive investment. The estimated payout period is less than two years, at the prevailing prices of energy.

The system he devised provided for the installation of the windmill power units in the different provinces in Luzon that would be connected to the main powerline network of the National Power Corp. When there is no wind in Bicol, for example, the operating Superwindmill units in other provinces could fill in the gap, with approximately 1,400 megawatts of additional uninterrupted power being fed to the Napocor main grid.

The same procedures could be adopted in Visayas and Mindanao.

Investors International had recognized Gasendo's Superwindmill as the "Best Energy Invention" during an exposition held in California in August 1991. The inventor was also one of the three recipients of the "Ninoy Aquino Memorial Award" in Los Angeles for his outstanding contribution to science and industry.

Rice husk converter

Gasendo is also the man behind another profitable yet environment-friendly invention: a converter that transforms rice husks into saleable products that can increase income of rice mill owners, while eliminating the health problems caused by this agricultural by-product.

Rotting piles of rice husks not only emit foul odor but also become breeding places for harmful bacteria. Burning of rice husks only aggravates the situation, because incomplete combustion produces oxides harmful to humans and the environment.

Gasendo designed his converter with complete combustion burners that produce only carbon dioxide. The fuel ash residue can be formulated into cheap fertilizer, and the heat energy content of the rice husks can be used to produce table salt.

Other inventions

Gasendo's other inventions include the warehouse dryer, salt evaporator and ocean fishfarm.

The warehouse dryer is capable of reducing the moisture content of large quantities of palay grains using solar energy so farmers can harvest even during the rainy season without having to worry about spoilage. It is designed to operate independently or in tandem with the salt evaporator using cheap agricultural fuels.

The evaporator utilizes and converts agricultural wastes into sanitary salt products essential for baking and production of bottled drinking water.

The ocean farmland is a storm-resistant habitat for harvesting migratory fish species with a computerized gate designed for a very low probability of escape.

Gasendo, a native of Negros Occidental, is president of the Gasendo Co. in Monterey Park, California. He has a doctorate in chemical engineering from Adamson University, Manila

Those who wish to know more about Dr. Gasendo's inventions may visit http://members.aol.com/gasendo/index.htm. He can be reached through his e-mail address gasendo@aol.com or P.O. Box 1031 Monterey Park, California 91754.

all about **élan**

MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Editor

HOWARD BORJA, Art Director

[éla] flair, distinction, class

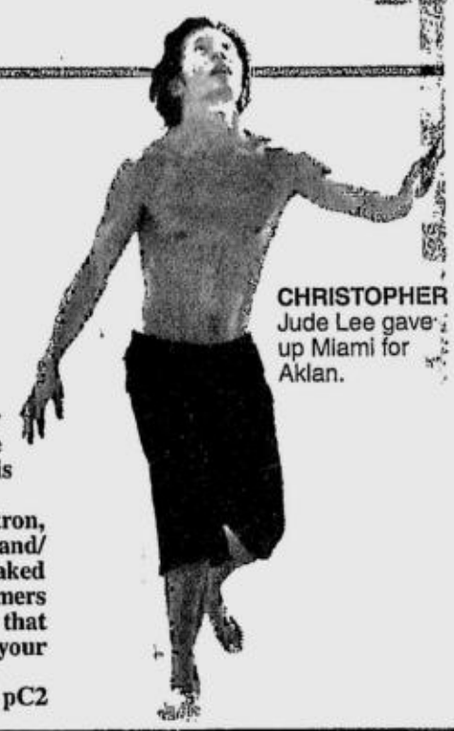
Meet Boracay's movers and shakers

BY TEDDY Y. MONTELIBANO
Contributor
PHOTOS BY BOBOT MERU

BORACAY has regained some of its luster which—over the years—this gem of an island in the Visayas has lost to unbridled commercialism. Some new establishments which have quietly been put up—without much fanfare—and are flourishing despite the general slowdown in the economy. The factor which gives these establishments elan is chiefly their proprietors—most of whom once led some busy existence elsewhere, seduced by the beauty of the island and decided to reinvent their lifestyles in this virtual paradise on earth.

There is something about working as a chef-patron, restaurateur or bartender of your own restaurant and/or sunset bar—half-naked, skin gloriously sun-baked and thinking nothing about except serving your customers along with the staff and, in a flash, diving into that wonderful, cool blue seawater a meter away from your workplace. What a divine life!

MEET/ pC2



CHRISTOPHER Jude Lee gave up Miami for Aklan.

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Meet Boracay's movers and shakers

(From page / C1)

Running a room with a view

JIMMY Coscolluela, general manager of Waling Waling Beach Hotel left a busy corporate and management life in Manila for Boracay. A management graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University, he has been in hotel management for over two decades. He was front office manager of the original Holiday Inn along Roxas Boulevard, moving on to manage Celebrity Sports Plaza, Marbella, and Montemar in Bataan. After a year working in the US, he came back to manage the Singaporean-owned Club Panoly (also in Boracay) and finally, Waling Waling.

Coscolluela's presence in the island signals the emergence of a new breed of professional hoteliers whose expertise in hotel management is necessary if establishments in Boracay are to attract a more sophisticated clientele.

Waling Waling, owned by World Bank and Asian Development Bank consultant **Dr. Orlando Sacay**, is—undoubtedly—among the more tastefully designed and luxurious of new establishments to rise on the island. Its row of cabañas—eight in all—fronting the sea, custom-designed for the **Sacays** by fashion-turned-furniture designer **Ernest Santiago**, is the most sought-after lounging spot by some of the country's rich and famous (not to mention, infamous) who come to the island to stay in the hotel. *(See page C-3)*

The beach hotel is built so that 24 of its 29 sizeable rooms all offer beachviews. But, says **Coscolluela**, the rooms most in demand are those on the ground floor. These eight rooms all open directly to the beach.

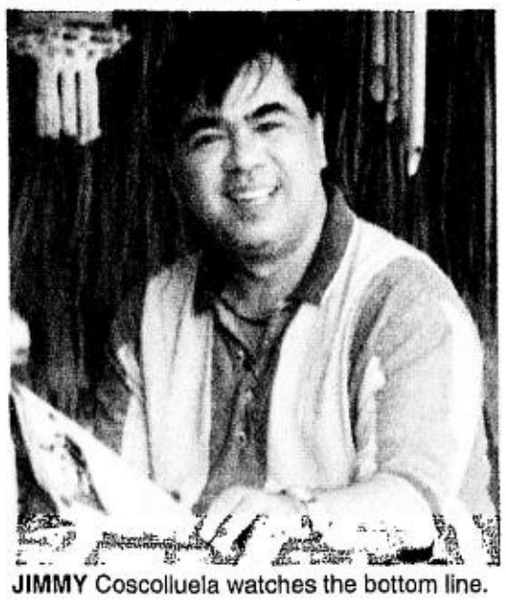
"Not only are they immediately accessible to the beach and the sea," Coscolluela says, "there is also a mad rush to get to a cabaña which are all taken up fast."

His main preoccupation is managing the **Sacay**'s three-storey beachfront hotel, trying his best not to lose his cool as he racks his brain in trying to accommodate all those who want to stay in Walingwaling.

The 1,500-square meter property was bought by **Dr. Sacay** in the early 1980s. "During the late 1970s or early 1980s, I was visiting in the island with a guest, an Englishman, who was so enamored with the island that he wanted to buy property in it. I was able to find something that he liked and because he could not own property upfront, I had to advance the money. At that time, I shelled out over P275,000 for that piece of land," **Dr. Sacay** related.

The Englishman, meanwhile, went home and later sent word, indicating to **Dr. Sacay** that he was no longer interested in the Boracay property. So he was left owning that piece of land! What luck! One can just imagine by how many folds that P275,000 investment he made has ballooned to. Still occupied with his consultancy work abroad, **Dr. Sacay** left his property idle until 1997 when he and his wife began to construct a modern beach hotel with first class amenities. Construction was done by 1998 and except for a shaky first year, Waling Waling has enjoyed almost full occupancy.

ORLANDO and Chat Sacay



JIMMY Coscolluela watches the bottom line.

A romance made in paradise

GOOD-LOOKING Fil-Am couple **Christopher Jude Lee** and his exotically beauteous girlfriend, **Louise Ravelo** have a life of sun and wind-swept bliss looking like they've completely forgotten all about Miami's South Beach and Manhattan. **Lee** used to be maitre'd of those sex-and-glam funplaces famed China Grill and California. **Ravelo** grew up in New York, where she worked with a private music label from whence all these classy hip beats you hear in Hey Jude!, currently the hottest sunset bar on the strip, come from.

Hey Jude! is owned by **Lee** and a silent partner, a Filipino uncle who's still basically based in Miami. **Lee** grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida, went to school in Drexel University in Philadelphia where he majored in math (with business for a minor course), returned back to Miami to work and party and basically live a life of wanderlust. Until he came to Boracay and met **Louise Ravelo**.

For her part, **Ravelo** was 12 when she left Manila in 1983 to live with her parents in California. She graduated cum laude in communications from San Francisco State University. Out of school in 1992, she flew back to the Philippines to visit relatives and basically have a vacation before going back to the US and start working. While on vacation in the Philippines, she flew to Boracay and never left.

Set up

"I just fell in love with the place," she said. "Well, okay, there was a guy—not **Jude**. I fell in love with this scuba diver along with the place; I learned how to scuba (dive), became a divemaster, earned really well enough for me to take a break and travel abroad for a vacation. But I would always come back to the island."

In 1993, she was matched with **Jude** who was then vacationing in Boracay for the first time, by mutual friends, **Fritz Webb** (son of former **Senator Freddie Webb**) and his wife **Kathy Alvarez**. **Louise** was loveless at that time. When she and **Jude** met, the attraction was mutual and they immediately became an item. Through with his vacation, **Lee** left for Miami—with **Ravelo** in tow.

"I tried to like Miami but it was too garish and too plastic for me—I started to miss Boracay really bad and I tried to convince **Jude** to come back with me to the Philippines but he had, at that time, too much of Miami yet in his system to leave his life there. So I came back to Boracay, alone."

Ravelo was in a fix. She was in Boracay, a place that she really loves, but she found herself pining for **Lee** who wouldn't leave Miami. Restive for **Lee**, she flew to Miami in 1995 but when they met, **Lee** gave her the cold shoulder. Dismayed, she took off for New York and worked there for a year. The novelty of working in Manhattan wore off after some time and Boracay already hopelessly deep in her mind frame, she found herself pulled back to the island after a year.

Lee reemerges in Boracay in 1997. "I guess she really left a big mark on me; couldn't get her off my mind," the guy says. "I was on a jaunt through Southeast Asia and I passed by Boracay to see how she was. And to ask her to have me back and join me in my travels." It was **Ravelo**'s turn to shake him off. "I had a boyfriend when he reappeared in the island," she related. "But he was persistent." **Lee** obviously pleaded his case well because three weeks after he left Boracay to go on with his traveling through the region, she packed up her bags, said goodbye to the guy she was with and joined **Lee**. They came back to Boracay and haven't yet left.

GOLDEN couple Christopher Jude Lee and Louise Ravelo run the most popular restaurant-bar on the beachfront.

Hey Jude! was born out of **Lee**'s wanting to be with her girlfriend and for him to have something to keep busy with in Boracay. It was originally supposed to have been a partnership between himself and **Juan Elizalde** (**Freddy Elizalde**'s son with **Josine Loinaz**). **Elizalde**'s dad—at present one of the biggest landowners in the island, owns D'Mall D' Boracay, a commercial/shopping center built on land he owns right smack in the middle of the island.. At the last minute the young **Elizalde** pulled out and **Lee** got his uncle, **Robin Sarda**, to fill up the gap. Together, they have invested some P5 million to build what currently must be the coolest, classiest sunset bar on the island. Hey Jude! occupies the best and biggest space in D'Mall: two stories and several hundred square meters with Boracay's famed soft silky white beach and bluegreen sea for frontage.

Best pizza

Ravelo, who still makes a short once-a-year trip to New York, comes back to Boracay with a suitcase full of the latest hip music—basically of the chill, chillhouse, deephouse, lounge genre. The best times to enjoy Hey Jude! is at sunset when the house plays down tempo music, even as you sit, facing the sea and the glorious fading golden light, sipping a cool cocktail.

Hungry later? Hey Jude! serves the best thin-crusted pizza on the island; wash that down with cold beer and/or some more of **Lee**'s cocktail drink concoctions and you're fixed for the evening when the beat starts to get more up tempo and the house starts to party.

"I've got a life here," says **Lee**, leaning back on his chair, his lean frame sporting a golden-brown hue. "I'm the luckiest guy on the planet!"

That he seems to be, indeed.

Sporting life

NENETTE Graf girds for the next sporting event.

IN 1989, Nenette Aguirre Graf, with now-estranged husband, **Roby Graf**, founded the Boracay Funboard Cup—a local competition which has today, become the Boracay International Funboard Cup.

Graf, who comes from a landowning family in Boracay, returned to the island after finishing college in Manila in the mid-1980s to help manage the family businesses. She met **Roby Graf**, a windsurfer and eventually, she herself developed a passion for the sport. The couple married and as legend goes, 1989 marked the beginning of the Boracay Funboard Cup when they decided to hold a windsurf regatta to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

What started as a spur-of-the-moment regatta has now become Asia's best windsurfing blast. The tradition that the **Graf**s began continued through the years. The Caliraya Windsurfing Fleet (CWF) joined the annual event in

Boracay, increasing the number of participants in the 1992 regatta to close to 40. It was the members of the CWF who spread word around on Boracay's potential as a major windsurfing destination. In 1993, the third-week January event attracted nearly 90 participants from 13 different countries.

More participants from other countries came to Boracay and the Boracay Funboard Cup became a truly international sports event. This year, Hong Kong-based Proteus Sports, organizer of the Asian Windsurfing Tour (AWT) will include Boracay its venue for the 2nd leg of the Tour.

Over 80 representatives from 15 countries have confirmed their participation in the six-day event which on January 21 to 26 will be on its 14th year of existence. And you can be sure that the firm-bodied sun-tanned Nenette Graf, holder of the title Fastest Woman Windsurfer in Asia, will be on top of the heap!

On the more sedate side, **Graf** helps manage the beautiful, native-inspired 20-room Sandcastle which houses the most authentic Thai restaurant in the island, Sun Thai. "Between managing this resort and communing with the wind and sea all year round, what more can one ask for," says **Graf**.

KAREN Reina. Searcher.

Toque of the island

JOSE Carlos "Binggoy" Remedios, a Spanish mestizo from Cebu is the proprietor of the best Spanish restaurant in the island. He was an officer of the broadcast group controlled by **Andre Kahn** and **Emilio Tuason**—basically radio stations 99.5 RT in Manila and Y101 in Cebu. In 1983, pushed by what he said was his "passion" in food preparation, **Remedios**, joined Philippine Airlines' operations in San Francisco, USA, where he was Catering Officer for the Americas until 1987 and then Dubai and finally Honolulu until his retirement in 1992. He came back to the Philippines, managed broadcast station Y101 in Cebu until 1998, "when I retired for the second time."

Why and how did he end up in Boracay? "Well," said the portly **Remedios**, cool as a cucumber, and sporting a little ponytail, "I am a beach person and was fortunate enough to have the luxury of choosing where to begin a new chapter of my life. And the Boracay lifestyle suits me just fine. I have to support this lifestyle with a business—thus—a restaurant."

Along with a friend and his partner in the restaurant, Manilan **Ramon Nieto**, he opened Dos Mestizos, with him as head chef. The restaurant is small—not more than thirty people can be seated comfortably and because **Remedios** himself cooks, one can expect all the dishes that he himself loves to eat to be prepared and served in the most inimitable manner.

Aside from **Remedios**' *tapas* and mouthwatering paella, he churns out from his kitchen such specialties as Zarzuela de Mariscos, an old recipe from his partner's mother—his **Tita Bubut Nieto**; Pepitoria de Pollo en su Sangre, which is a special recipe of the **Remedios** family; a unique Paella Negra which he says they call "La Negra Bicolana" in their menu because its unique recipe includes chili and coconut *gata*.

He has also put up the best Italian pasta/pizza beachfront restaurant in the island where such gourmets and gourmands like **Makati City Congressman Teddyboy** and wife **Louie Locsin** (nee **Barcelon**) and nice couple **Toto** and **Pachot Mapa** with family and friends from New York were seen, on separate occasions, enjoying a hearty merienda during the holiday break.

Remedios' migration to the island has also brought to Boracay its first and only ice plant which he operates and of which he is one of the incorporators.

"The technology is from Canada," he informs. "We make purified ice from seawater and we are responsible for keeping the beer in Boracay cold." A laudable endeavour, indeed!

Other places worth visiting in the island are Manileno **Edgar Mercado**'s Caribo where he whips up Filipino/Mediterranean fusion concoctions in a tastefully done, rustic setting; the new, (and quite pricey) Portuguese restaurant, O'Banza; and **Janet Dolera**'s Café Breizh's mouth-watering, succulent seafood basket. **Dolera** was the one who taught those who now own Café Breton here in Manila how to cook proper crepes; her creperie in Boracay Island is the original Café Bretonnes.

BINGGOY Remedios can whip up a mean vegetarian paella.

Making a difference

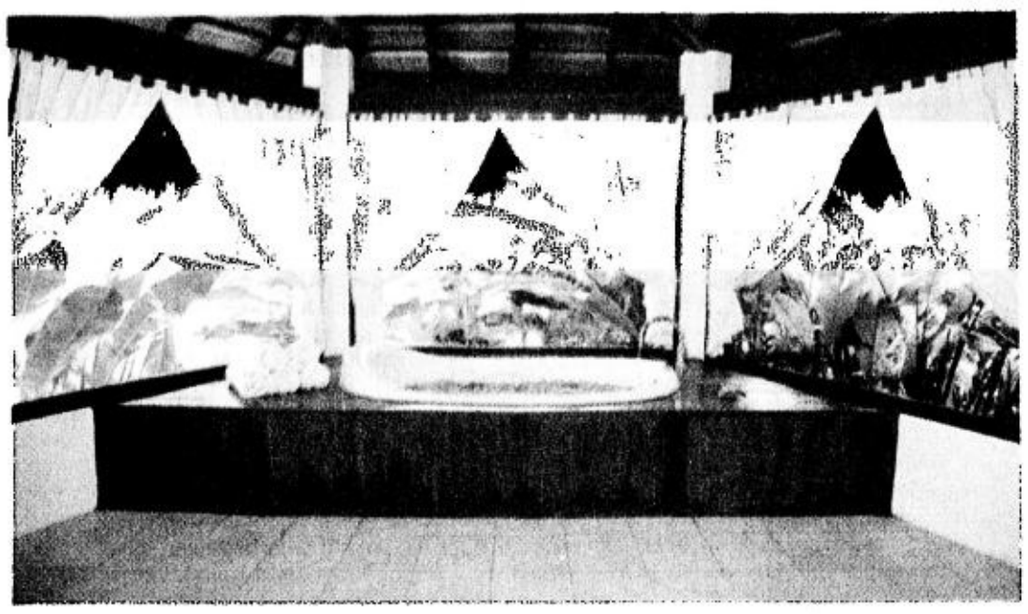
AFTER one has windsurfed the clear waters of Boracay with **Graf**, showered in one's suite at Waling Waling, dined with **Remedios** in Dos Mestizos and partied the whole night at Hey Jude! with **Lee** and **Ravelo**—soak and bliss out in luxurious decadence in Karen Villarica Reina Mandala Spa. *(See page C-3)* **Reina** comes from some of Cebu's most illustrious families—the **Salas** and the **Escaños**.

Reina owns Bravo—the Italian restaurant in Alabang and Malate where the pizza is without equal—and the floating bar in Boracay which she operated for 14 years until a big storm destroyed it beyond repair. Also, she and her husband at one time operated the biggest costume jewelry for export business in the country (based in Cebu) and now, she, along with German partner, **Dieter Schrottmann**, have opened the fabulous Mandala Spa.

Mandala is built on 2.5 hectares of property she and her husband had bought in the early 1980s. This is also where **Reina** personally conducts watsu—a water-based therapy which she learned from Howard Dull in Harbin, a costly but spartan spa she went to in the mountains of northern California after her marriage broke up in the late 1990s.

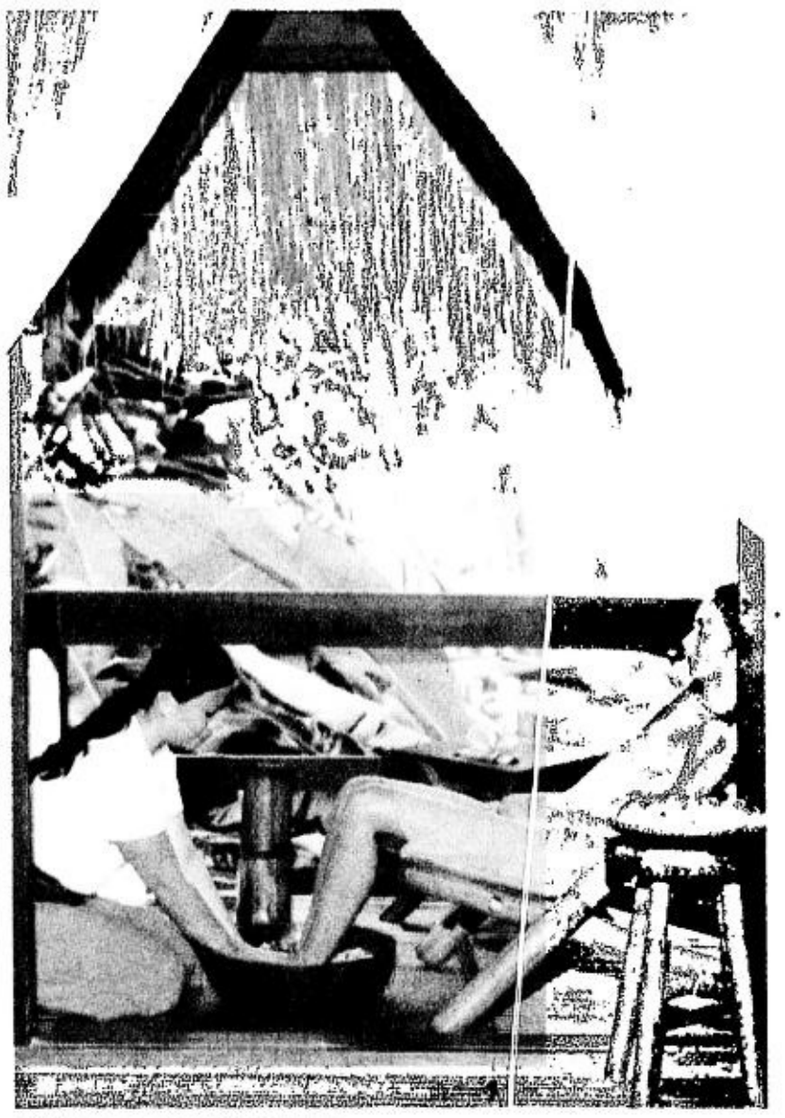
A plethora of offerings, from deep tissue massages and salt glow scrubs and thalasso and cool cucumber-aloe wraps to all-natural facials, scalp and shoulder cream bath massage to **Reina**'s water dance therapy which can blow one's mind away can be had in Mandala. A session in Mandala is a singular experience that can erase whatever flaws one might find in this unique island paradise and puts Boracay clearly in a class a notch above its closest competitor.

"I began to find myself in Harbin," says **Reina**, "and I feel like I have finally found my real purpose in life, now that I've built Mandala." And what, pray tell, is this that purpose in life that you've found, we ask **Reina**. "To make a difference; to make a mark in one's life."



FLORAL bath is part of the Princess treatment.

GUESTS can converge at the social pavilion.



FOOT massage by the terrace

The calm, still center that is Mandala

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY BOBOT MERU

BEFORE Boracay became a playground of the affluent and the wanna-be affluent, it evoked a quixotic quality. It attracted souls who had set out on the inner road of awareness.

In 1978, German photographer **Dieter Schrottmann** came to the Philippines for some faith healing in Baguio. His journalistic instincts led him to Boracay, which was nothing but the primeval charm of little huts and mystic caves where shamans lived.

He became the first expat to reside in the island. His nipa hut offered a view of the sunset and the beaches. He was pampered with maids and a private masseur. During the rainy season, when no one visited him, **Schrottmann** was immersed in solitude.

"Nobody spoke English, and I barely spoke five words of Boracaynon. So you remain in silence. It's not that you are deprived of stimuli. You're just deprived of people's voices. The only voice you have to listen to is that coming out of your head," **Schrottmann** recalled. The silence was like a clearing in the midst of thickets.

"I realized what my values and priorities were," he said.

Schrottmann returned to Manila and established a company offering massage services done by the blind. The business became prosperous until greed ate up the employees. After a marital break-up and the closure of his business, **Schrottmann** felt it was time to return to Boracay.

RP's first day spa

Karen Villarica-Reina was burned out after running a successful export business. During her transition, she studied healing arts, tai chi, meditation and creative visualization. Since she owned a 2.5-hectare property in the hills of Boracay, she decided to spend her time there. She felt that she had received everything that she wanted in life, especially material success and beautiful children. She wanted to give back to society by establishing a Montessori school in the island.

Her property had to be utilized in a worthwhile way. **Reina** wanted a service-oriented facility without the stress of running a resort.

"The spa was something I liked to do, it wouldn't become work," she said.

She asked **Schrottmann** to help her with her venture. Since then, the year-old Mandala Spa has become a buzzword in high society. Why go to Bali or Phuket when Mandala is the first day spa in the country?

Star of David

"Mandala" comes from the Sanskrit word for circle or the center of all existence. This sanctuary of the soul is nestled in the jagged emerald hills of Boracay, some 800 feet above sea level. It is an alternative to the beachfront where ubiquitous *bancas* obscure the view of the horizon.

The dwellings originally consisted of the **Reina** residence and separate guesthouses for visitors to enjoy privacy. Everybody converged at the social pavilion for meals. The guest-houses have been converted into villas for spa services. A pavilion, consisting of yoga decks cascading down the slopes and public massage rooms for men and women, is in the works.

The architecture is distinctly Filipino—pitched, thatched roofs, slatted floors, *capiz* sliding doors and windows, coco lumber posts and furniture made of petrified wood . "This is Boracay-woven bamboo floors, thatched roofs and open spaces. Boracay means breaking down the barrier between the inside and the outside," said **Schrottmann**. It's a metaphor for letting go.

The villas are hexagons so that visitors can enjoy the view at all angles.

"If you connect the outer point of the hexagon, you come up with a five-pointed star, the Star of David. Two equal triangles pointing upward represent the male energy. The female energy is symbolized by the downward-facing triangles. If you move into the hexagon, you get the perfect harmony of energies. That's the meaning of the houses," **Schrottmann** pointed out.

Green balm

Geomancer **David Thomas** doused the rocks to purify the ancestral sites in the property.

"His mission is to heal the energies. Some of the power points in this place are contaminated. This is where feng shui will try to balance the energies by placing water, stone or plant here and there. **David** locates this energy and recharges it," **Schrottmann** explained.

Although the shell is Filipino, the bathrooms are European in materials and lines.

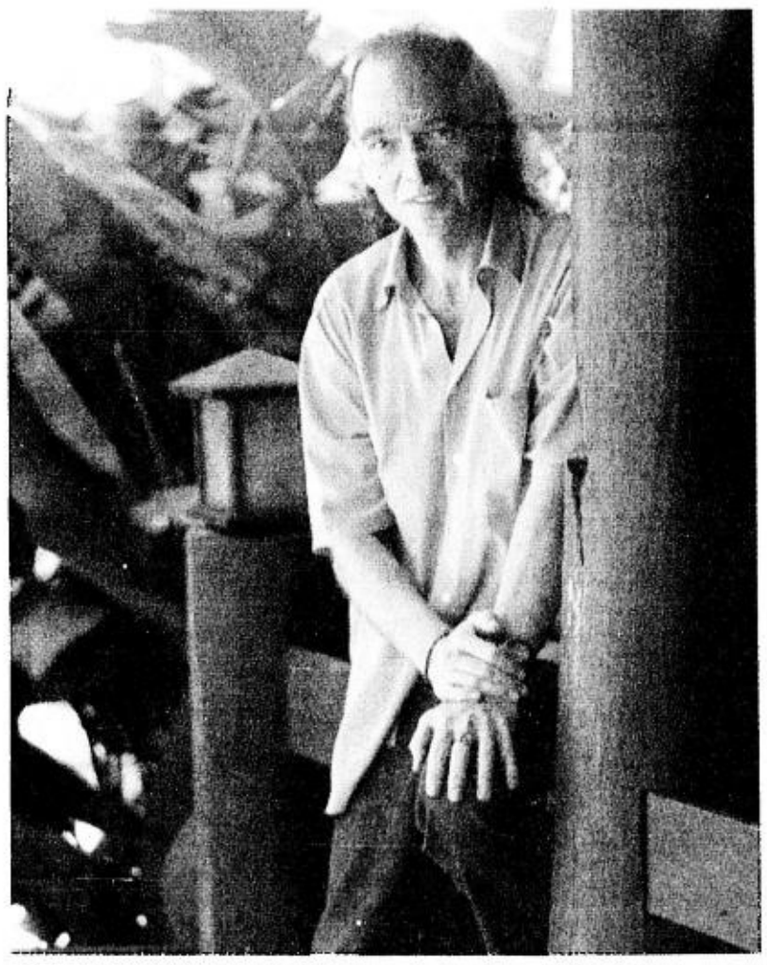
Schrottmann said Mandala aims to be self-sufficient as it evolves into a wellness center. There are plots of herbs, arugula, oregano, local and European lettuce, cilantro, parsley, and ginger. Heliconians abound as do sampaguitas. Soon the subtle scents of sampaguita and ylang-ylang will waft in the air.

Much has been said about Mandala's selling points such as the herbal body wraps, the water shiatsu and the four-hour spa packages that include a body scrub or good rubdown with the deep-tissue massage. Women are pampered with the floral footbath and facial.

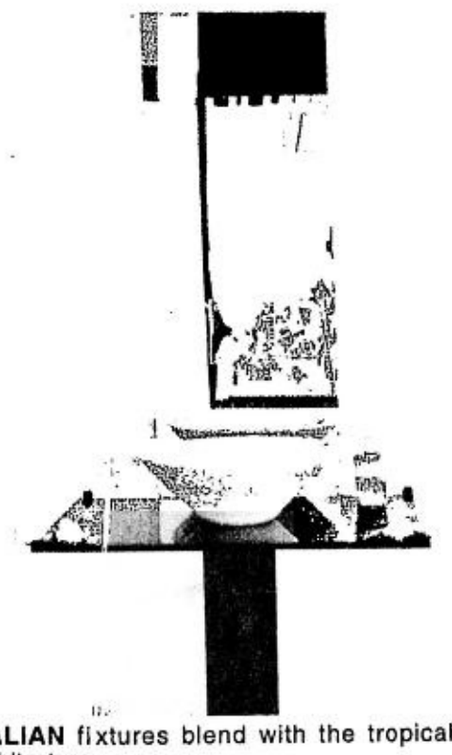
But Mandala's attraction is the tranquil landscape. The shades of green, the color of calmness, work like nature's balm. As you gaze at the shoreline, your eye muscles start losing their tension. Overlooking the panorama from the hilltop, you see everything from a different perspective. This presents a corrective to self-indulgence and anxieties. In gentler scenery, you view yourself differently. Troubles seem less perplexing or even imaginary. Mandala's magic works slowly. The more time you immerse yourself in it, the more your uptightness dissolves.

The weather was muggy when the INQUIRER visited Mandala. The soft gray clouds blanketed the sky, allowing only drafts of light. Patches of light pierced the shady trees, which overhung the slopes. The groves drew darkly on the knoll and below them, you could see huge boulders, the palmy beach and splashing breakers. By twilight the warm lightness of the air had turned to cold, after the rain showers. The magic was still there as our senses had been re-awakened.

(For details of Mandala Spa, call (6336) 288-5858 or email info@mandalaspa.com. *Visit the website:* www.mandalaspa.com)



DIETER Schrottman



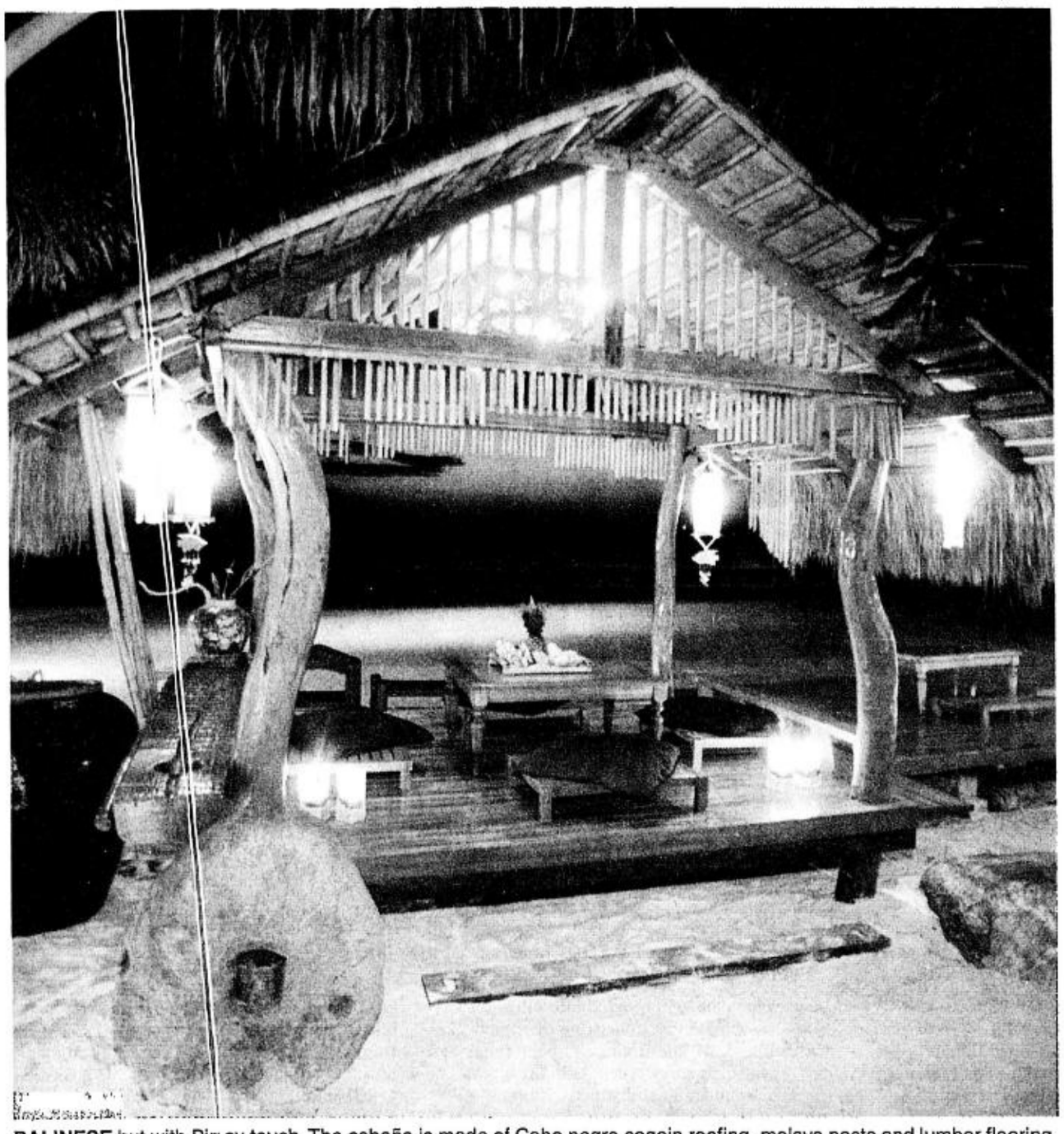
ITALIAN fixtures blend with the tropical architecture.

TIRED of the beach? Mandala Spa works like a green balm in the hills.

DO yoga at the deck and commune with nature.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The best place to throw in the towel



BALINESE hut with Pinoy touch. The cabaña is made of Cabo negro cogoin roofing, molave posts and lumber flooring. Boulders were carved in Santiago's workshop in Laguna and brought to the island.

TRUST designer **Ernest Santiago** to transform something ordinary into the most chi-chi spot on the beachfront.

When the **Sacays** asked **Santiago** to beautify Waling Waling resort, he found the place as a plain box in the prime location of Boracay. The edifice had a face-lift. And, as an added attraction, **Santiago** built the cabañas and an open-bar, inspired by the raised huts in Bali. The molave stools and table were made in **Santiago**'s workshop in Pagsanjan, Laguna. He added Oriental fixtures for a decorative touch.

The project must have been expensive, considering that **Santiago** had to go to the resort every month. The designer said it's a work of love.

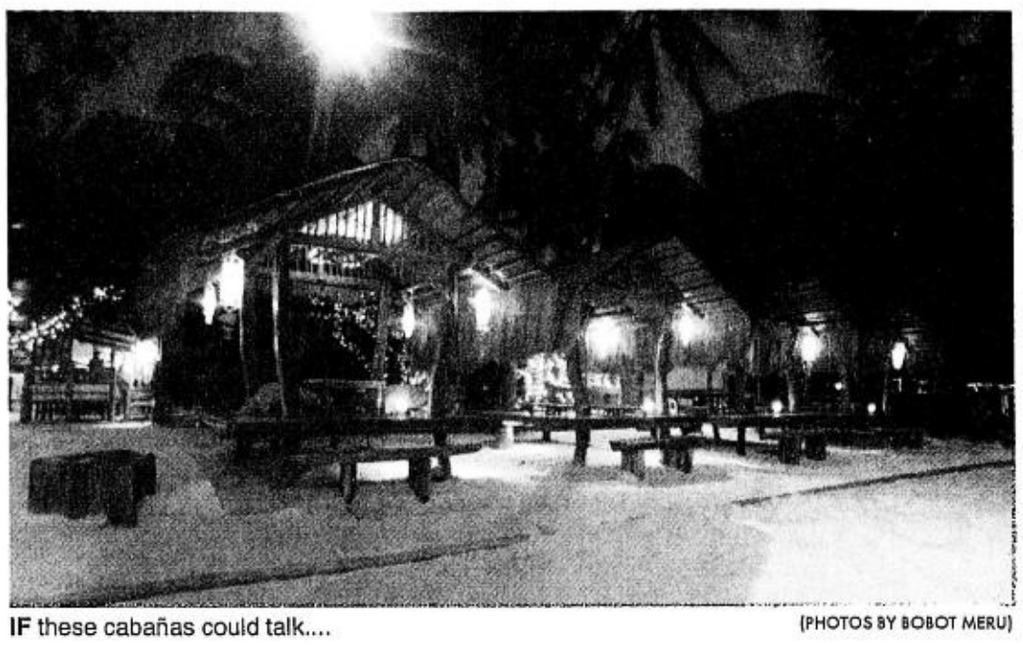
During the millennium party, the place was filled with Manila's Who's Who. Many were in **Santiago**'s guest list. Champagne, flown in from Bacolod, overflowed. Everybody loved the cabañas. Guests can enjoy their meals and cocktails, meditate during sunrise or sunset, get a massage or relax with the elements.

During the high season, everybody wants to get their place in the sun. They'd leave their towels to say that the cabaña was theirs. Other guests would ignore the towels and claim their spot. Settling the territorial dispute is challenge.

Adult entertainment is discouraged. However, there was one delightful evening when a dutiful waitress was told by the manager to clear up the tables in one of the cabañas. She saw a foreign couple in the throes of passion. They kept their tops on, but not their bottoms.

Waling Waling's room rates are nearly twice the cost of staying at a Makati hotel. You pay for the splendid view, the big beds, the beautiful memories and the status symbol.

To discriminating guests, their privacy is valued. The manager won't name drop. Now that's class.



IF these cabañas could talk.... (PHOTOS BY BOBOT MERU)

Wash away your anxieties

Watsu is like going back into your mother's womb

WATSU, short for water shiatsu, is a passive exercise by which you float in the pool, and let the energy of the elements cleanse you of tension. As the adage in Tibetan-Buddhism goes, you "swim within the energies of the senses."

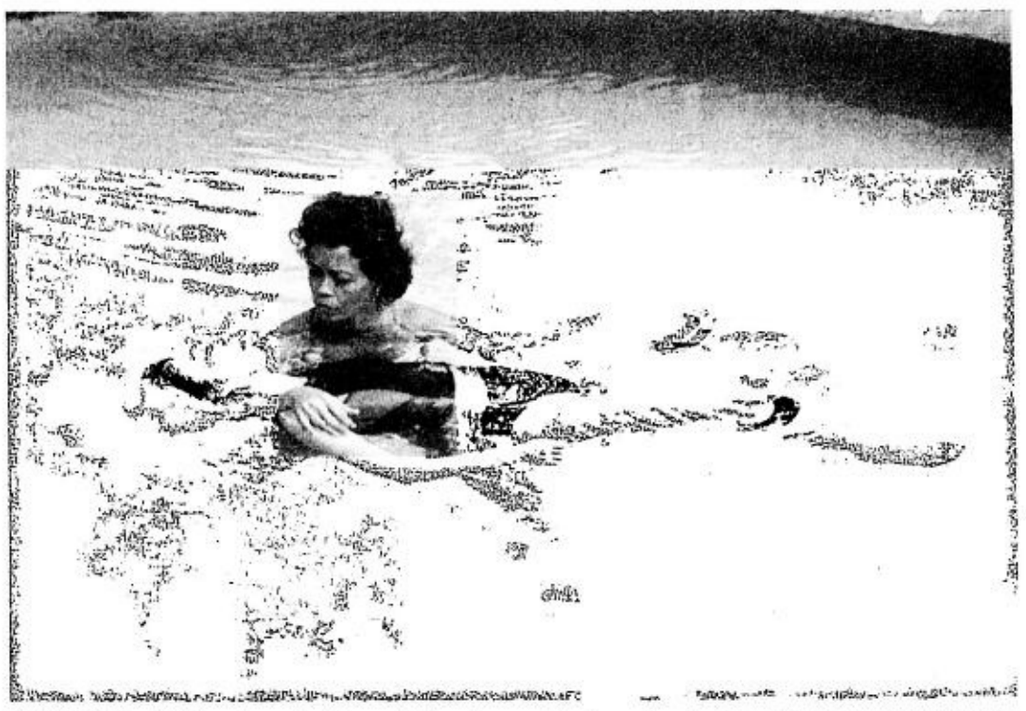
This treatment is based on the premise that there is a link between your physical and mental conditions and water. If you are relaxed and calm, your actions and emotions work in consistent flow. The infinite dance of water, which is a symbol of life, is parallel to a positive state of being.

Mystic texts recommend meditation near bodies of water. Psychologists use the sea and its rhythmic currents as part of creative visualization or a relaxation exercise. The gratification gained from saunas, jacuzzis, showers, swimming pools and beaches attest to the attraction that you feel for water. This affinity reflects your amniotic state in our mother's uterus. It is also associated with the image of the subconscious as an unfathomable ocean. Such concepts denote the importance of water in relaxation.

You lie comfortably in the arms of **Karen Reina**, in the quiet pool of Mandala Spa. Close your eyes and feel the peaceful water bathe you. When you loosen up and express your feelings, you regain your fluid state.

"I ask the person, who's cradled in my arms, to think of something in nature which he or she likes. Keep that image throughout the session. To make it easier for you to relax, there is stretching, flexion and extension of the spine. Some have a spiritual experience. Some have a cathartic release. Some laugh while others experience a profound sense of mellowness. The exercise opens up your heart," she explains.

Reina finds the experience gratifying. "When I receive watsu, I feel like a different person. I feel lighter after releasing tension. If I'm the one giving watsu, it works like meditation. I am conscious of where the person is at. I follow his or her breath. Once it has reached a certain level, a sacred space is created. I am responsible for holding that space when the person has a cathartic release. The person feels that it's okay to let go of bottled feelings. Everything depends on what you allow to happen."



RELAXING with the elements. Karen Reina gives a client a watsu treatment in Boracay's Mandala Spa.

Fight aging with light

MOISTURIZERS have gone a long way. Ten years ago, their only task was to keep the skin from drying up. In the late 90s, they not only nourished the skin with vitamins and minerals but they also provided sun protection.

The new generation of moisturizers goes a step further. **Estee Lauder**'s new moisturizer, Lightsource, doesn't just keep the skin soft. It uses principles of radiation to transform our perception of the skin tone.

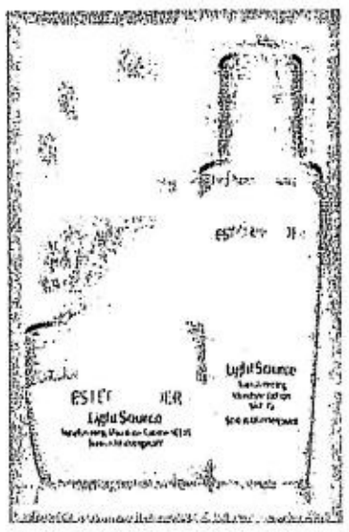
Color is simply energy. White light, which carries all the wavelengths, can be separated into a spectrum of colors. Each wavelength is linked to a different color, ranging from violet at the short-wavelength end through indigo, blue, green yellow, orange and red at the long-wavelength end. The various colors and their corresponding energies affect our sensors on different levels.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration developed spectrum photography to watch over the health of astronauts in space by analyzing light and its properties. They discovered that in the light spectrum, grays and yellows add years to the face.

Estee Lauder refined this technology in understanding how spectral wavelengths could enhance the skin's appearance

Aging signs become noticeable before the age of 40 as some parts of the face simply reflect less light. When the reflection of green light lessens, the skin looks older. Lightsource contains micronized crystals that bounce back the light to make the skin tone look clear and even.

Microcrystals also give the skin the missing light needed to optically reduce the signs of premature aging. They also prevent ultra-violet light from sinking in the skin



LIGHTSOURCE. Skin gets fully charged

Like most moisturizers, Lightsource contains micronutrients. They are made of yeast extracts with vitamins, minerals and amino acids that boost the energy and the skin's defense system. Trace minerals such as calcium, magnesium, zinc and vitamins enable the skin to be in top condition.

Creatine, an amino acid that is vital to the cells' energy cycle, activates these nutrients to stimulate cellular activity.

Algae and sodium hyaluronate help retain the skin's moisture. These ingredients are intensified as re-energized cells become more efficient and hold the moisture longer. Wheat germ extract, sage, cholesterol and linoleic acid firm up the skin's barrier function.

Antioxidants protect the skin from environmental damage to combat wrinkles and other signs of premature aging.

Skin savers

THE NATURAL Source fuses beneficial Australian naturopathic ingredients into skin, hair and beauty products.

It uses only the purest plant-active materials from unspoiled Australian environments.

The team of naturopaths, dermatologists, ethnobotanists and cosmetic chemists create products that contain pure plant-active ingredients with no animal ingredients, petrochemicals or unnecessary synthetics. The naturopathic products hold unique herbal actives that provide beauty or wellness benefits for specific skin conditions. The ranges contain pure aroma-botanical ingredients without added preservatives using only naturally filtered springwater.

Terra Firma, the premium skin-care, body and bath range, is derived entirely from Australian nuts, seeds and kernels. The products are formulated for everyday use, and suitable for even the most sensitive skin.

Daintree Naturopathic Skin Care is an exclusive naturopathic skin-care, body care, sun-care and fragrance layering range, based entirely on unique plant-active Australian ingredients and springwater.

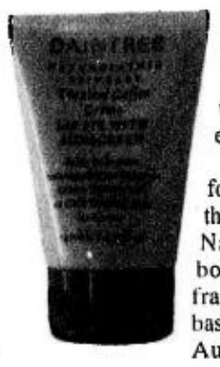
Hi-Shine Naturopathic Haircare is a line of micro-brewed Naturopathic, 100 percent natural shampoos, conditioners and styling products.

Mayaltha Body Sculpting is a safe program that firms up the skin.

Bubbles is a natural range of fragrant bath and shower Bath Breath Bubbles, Body Balm Bubbles and Lip Balm Bubble.

Tropical beauty in a jar

The Daintree Rainforest in Queensland is the soul behind this Australian skin-care range. The active and naturopathic ingredients and plant extracts provide the products' unique efficacy.



Formulated by CEO and founder **Dr. Robert Ippaso**, the Daintree program includes Naturopathic skin care, bodycare, suncare and fragrance layering products, based entirely on plant-active Australian herbal and naturopathic ingredients and spring water purified without the use of chemicals.

Tropical Coffee Natural Sunless Tanning contains almond and macadamia nut oils to give the lotion a fine texture. Daintree's Antioxidizing Body Scrub will keep the skin healthy and the color fresh and even.

Wild Mate's Insect Repellent with Moisturiser & Sunscreen Citronella keeps the bugs away. It contains four percent Citronella and one-percent tea tree oil to ward off bugs, mites and mosquitoes.

Tropical Sugar Cane After-Sun Burn Tamer / Body Cooler is a complex formulation of plant-active mints, menthol and aloes suitable for use where the skin is over singled or overheated

Tropical Coffee Invisible Sunblock SPF 30 Broad Spectrum Factor 30 Sunscreen contains 10 percent natural earth mineral titanium dioxide. This powerful broad-spectrum UV block protects the skin from the sun and doesn't leave white residue.

Tropical Coffee Creme Lip Fix with Sunscreen contains shea butter, cocoa butter seet almond oil and hazelnut oil. This formula is designed specifically to salve lips around the clock. Vitamin E and powerful sunscreens protect the lips from the sun and wind. Mineral clay holds lipstick longer in a non-greasy intensive lip conditioning formula. This product also softens rough skin spots

Long-wearing sunblock

Lancome's UV export provides high-resistance UVA and UVB filters. These rays cause lesion and premature aging (UVA) and degenerate the skin (UVB). They contain patented ingredients, variations of Mexoryl, that absorb the heat from solar radiation.

Another patented ingredient, Nanocapsules contain Vitamin E combined with Vitamin C works as the skin's defense.

Vitamin E is the ideal complement to Vitamin C, which regenerates the former for double action against free radicals that, protects the skin from environmental damage.

Traditional filters deteriorate as they distill the rays and lose their degree of efficacy. Mexoryl SX (anti-UVA) and Mexoryl XL (anti-UVA and UVB) are completely stable when exposed to the light. They maintain filtering properties throughout the day.

Shielding with sunflower and shea

The French have studied the treatment benefits of the sunflower. Although it is adapted to dry climates, it never wilts. The petals contain photo-receptors, which absorb UV rays, but the seeds hold natural ultraviolet protection so they are not damaged by long exposure to the light.

An active UV protector is extracted with oil from the sunflower seeds. This element creates a natural UV shield by neutralizing the free radicals caused by the sun.

L'Occitane has developed a sun range that uses sunflower seeds and shea butter that speeds up the growth of skin cells. It also promotes healing and relieves skin irritation. Plant extracts absorb the energy of solar radiation.

The sun-care range carries DHA (dihydroxyacetone) which produces a healthy tan. Vegetable extracts soften and moisturize the skin. Sallowthorn oil helps to regenerate sunburned skin.

The combination of mineral filters that reflect the sun's rays and organic sunscreens safeguards the skin in absorbing the harmful rays of the sun.

(All brands are available at Rustan's.)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CityLights Gardens Condominium

(Ready for immediate occupancy)

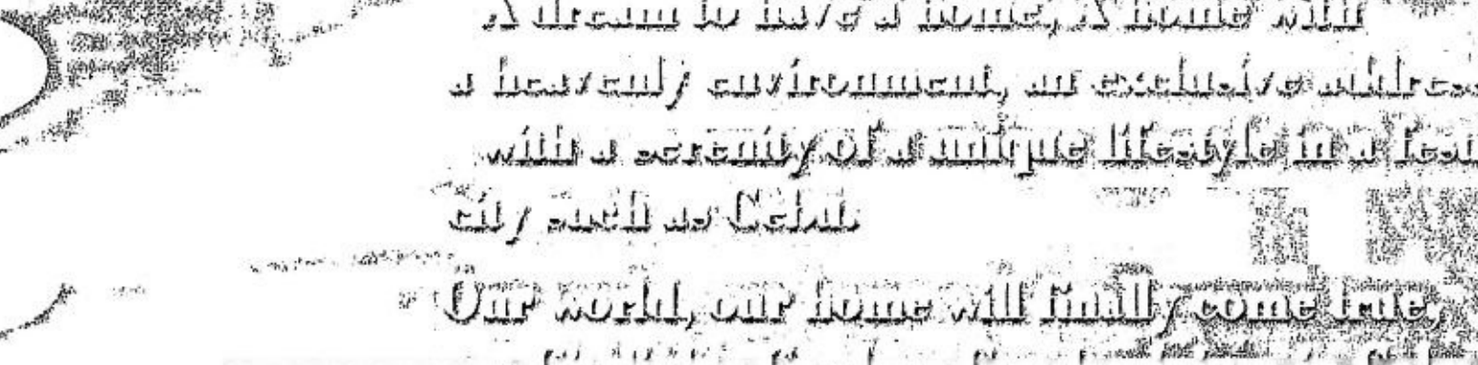
Because we dare to dream

We cherish a beautiful vision
We cherish a lofty ideal in our hearts
We cherish the loveliness that drape our
purest thoughts

Of these, we remain true to our dream
A dream to have a home. A home with
a heavenly environment, an exclusive address
with a serenity of a unique lifestyle and festive
City north of Cebu

Our world, our home will finally come true,
at CityLights Gardens Condominium in Cebu
Our world, our home at last!
Because we dare to dream.

What's inside



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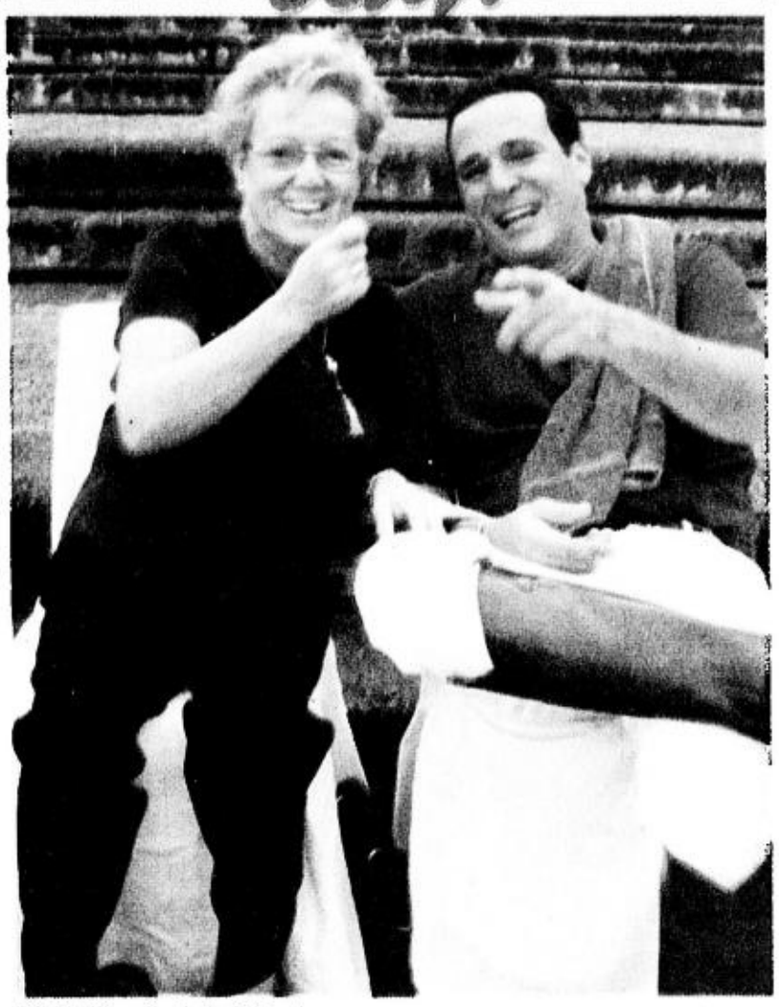
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

CHITO Melo, Charlie Carmona, Louie Ysmael

RENE Concepcion, Mr and Ms Pol Ascalon

FEDERICO and Josephine Borromeo, Ting Ayllon



PILAR Garcia, Inigo Zobel

SANTI and Jun Juban, Kooch Lynch, Ace Suzuki

CRIS Albert, Wanda Louwallien, Georgette Walker and Ana Bitong

SANTI and Marilan Elizalde with their kids

Let the polo games begin

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

CLOUDY skies heralded the opening of the 2002 Polo Season last week at the Manila Polo Club. The affair was attended by expatriates who donned their best hats, guests of the club members and, of course, the former club presidents.

For a bit of history, polo was introduced by **Commissioner of Police William Cameron Forbes**. When he become the Governor General to the Philippines he made polo a regular sport. Thanks to him the Manila Polo Club was established.

Today the Polo Season starts with the past Presidents' Cup. In the club tradition, incumbent president **Eduardo Yap** welcomed his predecessor **Policarpio Ascalon** with a cup match.

ANTONIO Meer and Franciso del Rosario

SERAFINA Spiranez and Bobby Aguirre

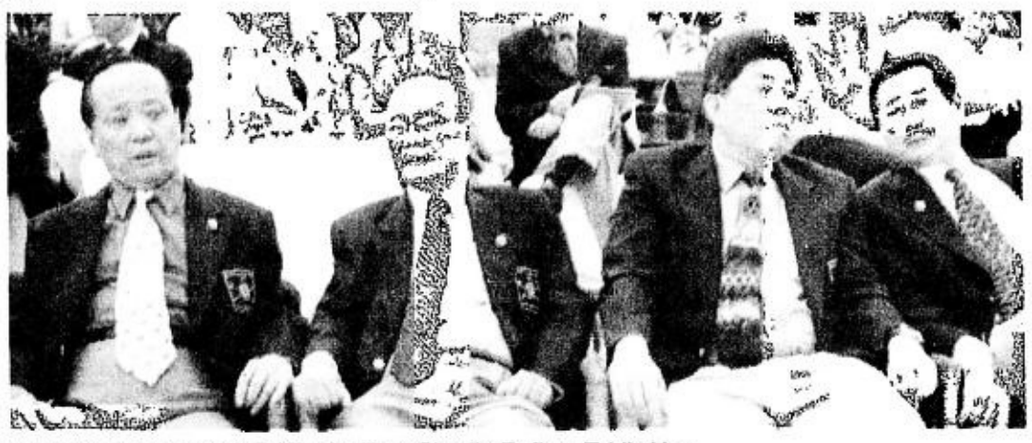
MITA Rufino, Tessie Amparo, Chinit Rufino, Dellie Yap

ROSANNA Yulo-Wray

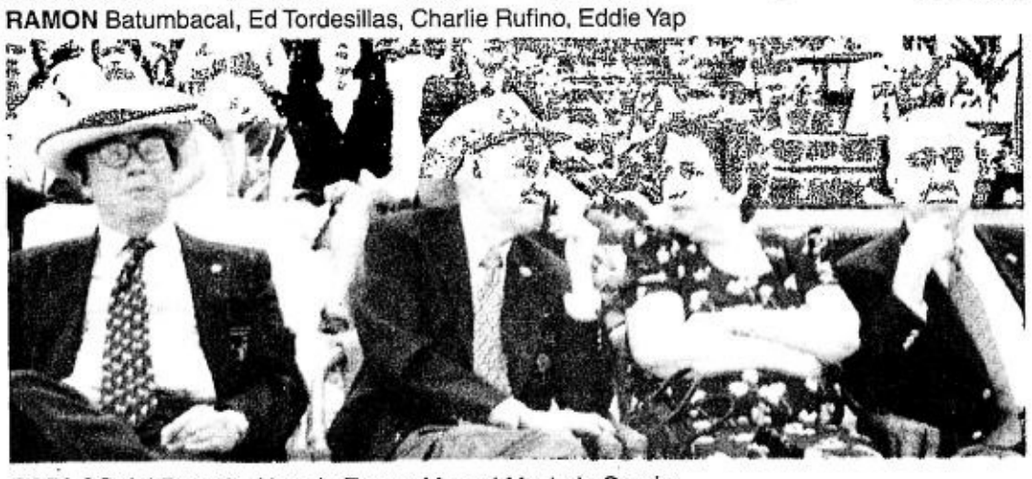
PACQUI Campos

LILIBETH Campos

TONY Rufino

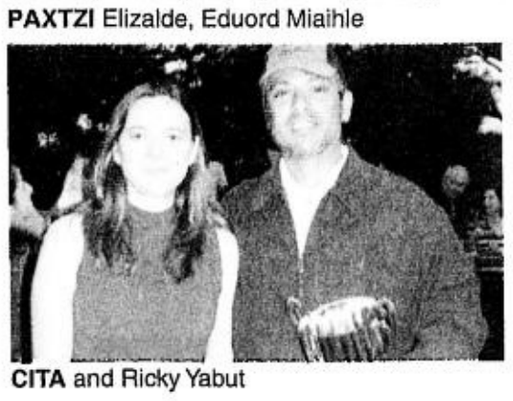


RAMON Batumbacal, Ed Tordesillas, Charlie Rufino, Eddie Yap



CARLOS del Rosario, Hermie Zayco, Mr and Ms. Luis Garcia

PAXTZI Elizalde, Eduord Miaihle

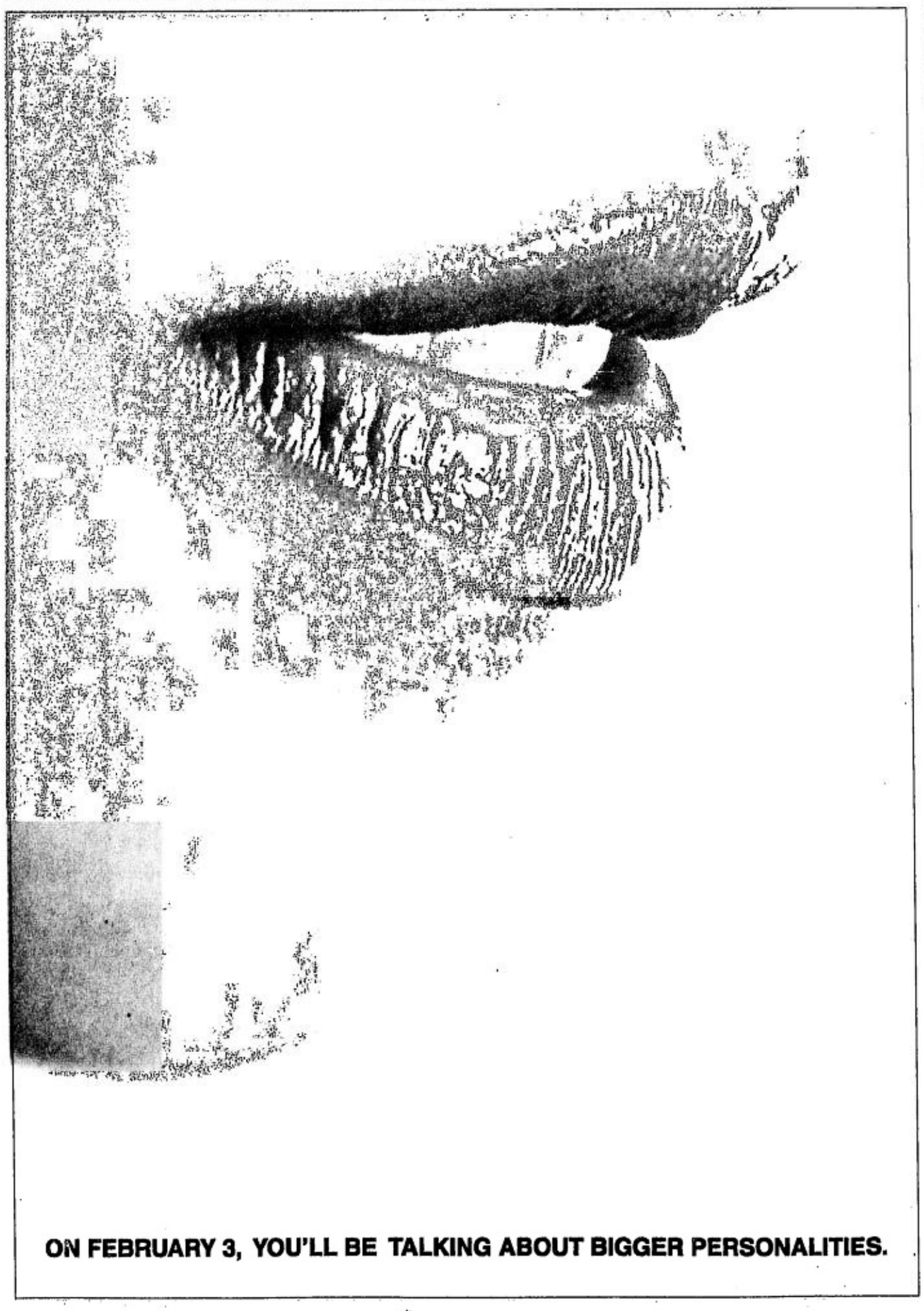


CITA and Ricky Yabut

HANS Kasten and Carlynn Manning

BRITISH Ambassador Allan Collins with wife Ann and son Paul

AMY and Roberto Romer, Dee and Enrique Zobel



Jackie Kennedy revisited

BY HARRIET ANN DY
Contributor

TORONTO—One of the best things about spending the holidays in Eastern Canada is its relative proximity to the cultural mecca that is New York City and historic Boston. Living within a touchdown distance of these two great capitals made it easier for my husband and I, together with another couple-friend, to plan a Boston getaway over a Christmas weekend.

Despite the chilly weather, walking around Harvard Square at night made up for the absence of *simbang gabi's* festive spirit. Taking comfort in Legal Seafoods' famous seafood chowder made me miss homemade *bibingka* a little less.

Easily one of the trip's highlights, however, was spending a fascinating afternoon at the exhibit **"Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years"** at the I.M. Pei-designed JFK Library and Museum at the University of Massachusetts campus.

EVENING dress in candy pink silk-dupioni shantung, 1962. State dinner honoring Andre Malraux, France's minister of culture, the White House, May 11, 1962.

Icon

The late First Lady remains a much-revered and much-copied style icon known for her elegant fashion taste, her thoughtful entertaining, and her dramatic renovation of the White House.

So legendary is her legacy that four decades after her short reign as White House queen, America's most fashionable decided to celebrate her style by putting together her clothes, seating plans and even her hand-written notes in a major exhibit that undoubtedly ranked as one of New York's must-see—and be seen—event last year.

But while **"The White House Years"** is the first Jackie O-dedicated exhibit at New York's Met Museum, this is not the first time the JFK Library is hosting a tribute to the late First Lady. In 1997, the Library hosted **"Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy**: First Lady," an exhibit of **Jackie**'s wedding gown, sketches of her restoration efforts of the White House and an interesting biography of her privileged roots. A special section of her life in the White House is also part of the Museum's permanent exhibit.

For the most part however, the current JFK exhibit is a slightly edited version of the New York show. Aside from the 70 original and well-preserved costumes, historical documents like her hand-written notes on White House stationery, **Oleg Cassini**'s original sketch of her inaugural gown, **Leonard Bernstein**'s original inaugural score entitle "Fanfare for the Inauguration," copies of the Inagural program, her *trompe o'leil* dressing room doors and elegant watercolors depicting the First Lady on a 1961 Paris trip by **Jacqueline Duheme** are available for the curious fashionista.

It would be too simplistic to conclude that **"The White Years"** is just another exhibit on contemporary fashion. What's remarkable about this exhibit—Vogue's editor-at-large **Hamish Bowles** definitely did a great job as curator—is how it reflects **Jackie**'s careful and effortless thought in cultivating her style. An oxymoron, perhaps, but one she achieved with the most genteel aplomb.

Core

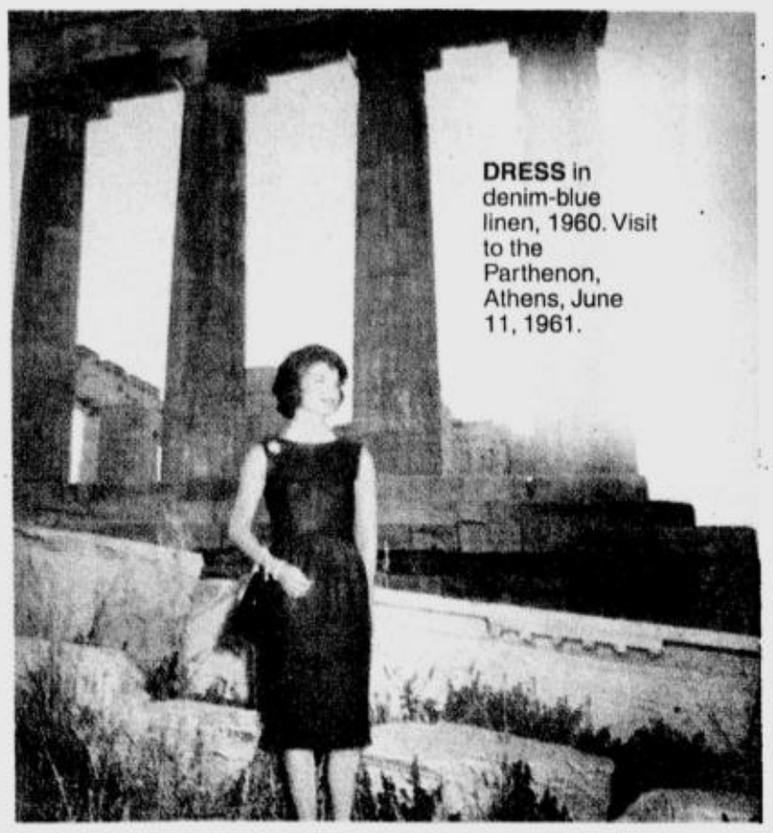
At the core of her stylishness is a mix of charm, intelligence and a genuine and sincere interest in other people and cultures. This would explain why she wore a crisp hot pink sleeveless dress and match it with a tropical-flavored *parabuntal* hat on a state visit to Mexico. Or, on a visit to India, a radioactive pink "abstraction of a rajah coat," paying homage to local fashion. Color—in delicious shades of lime, apricot, red, turquoise, azure, and purple—are, surprisingly, also a predominant wardrobe theme.

Much has been said about the classic elements of **Jackie**'s clothes—the overscaled buttons, the three-quarter sleeves, the overblouse, pillbox hat, big sunglasses, pearls, gloves and the ribbons—but **Jackie**'s great gift was not just about choosing modern and timeless clothes that flattered her slim figure, but wearing them in an ambassadorial context that only endeared her even to the most jaded politician like former Russian leader **Nikita Khruschev**.

In the curator's notes, **Bowles** captured it best when he observed, "**Mrs. Kennedy** used clothing as a theatrical device" and dressed not just for Vogue's pages, but in a way that complemented the host nation as well. Now, that is a height of stylishness.

Although she worked closely with **Oleg Cassini**, she also wore equally elegant creations by **Hubert de Givenchy**, Christian Dior's **Marc Bohan, Chanel, Bergdorf Goodman Couture**, and less internationally known designers like **Chez Ninon** and **Joan Morse**. What's fascinating is despite the fact that different designers were penning her clothes, her clothes seamlessly followed the same design arc and had the same elements consistently present.

Equally interesting are her correspondence and corrections on seating arrangements on state functions. We can only hope to have eavesdropped at the table where she gathered cultural and literary lions like **Thornton Wilder, Irwin Shaw, Tennessee Williams** and **Arthur Miller,** conductor **Leonard Bernstein**, and choreographer **George Balanchine** during a dinner for **French Culture Minister Andre Malraux**.



DRESS in denim-blue linen, 1960. Visit to the Parthenon, Athens, June 11, 1961.

"The White House Years" is worth a visit if only to relive the romanticism of the Kennedy era when Jackie's presence personified "vital intelligence, high culture and youthful sophistication"—all of which contributed to real style.

Jackie was elegant and intelligent not just in her fashion, but in everything she did, including her being a parent. Walking through the exhibit is getting an intimate look at how beauty cloaked her very existence. There is a pureness and enigma, something that reflected in most basic and essential aspects like raising her two children, **Caroline** and **JFK Jr.** as good, law-abiding American citizens under the piercing glare of the paparazzi.

In a speech commemorating the opening of the **"The White House Years"** exhibit at the JFK Museum, **Caroline Kennedy-Schlossberg**, museum Director, said it best: "For me, and for those who knew my mother, she will always be a part of us, and of our lives, and she will always grace the history she helped to make. With her own sense of style, she interpreted these values, and represented **President Kennedy**, and America, in a way that captured the imagination of the world, and still does.

"Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years" will be on exhibit until Feb. 28, 2002 at the JFK Museum, University of Massachusetts campus, Boston.

New Year dazzlers

BY BECKY GARCIA
Contributor

THEY literally danced their way to the year 2002. That's exactly how the guests at New Year's Eve Black and Gold Ball of the Makati Shangri-La did. When the hotel organized its New Year's Eve party, where yours truly was asked to host, guests were awed and mesmerized. The hotel's elegant lobby lounge was transformed into a lavish dance hall with the huge pillars draped in elegant black and glittering gold. Kudos go to the hotel's management team who were in full force that evening led by hotel manager, **Wolfgang Krueger**, Food and Beverage director **Krister Svensson**, F & B executive **Martin de Castro** and Communications manager **Marc dela Cruz**, who made sure that every detail was attended to from the lush table centerpieces, the best silver, crystal and china that were laid out for the occasion up to the sumptuous international dinner buffet that guests savored that evening.

VETERAN actor Luis Gonzalez with partner Divina Mercado

Manila's glitterati and the ballroom set came in their best frocks to experience the hotel's grand bash. Guests were led by no less than the **Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay**, charming first lady **Dra. Ellen Binay** and the whole **Binay** brood: **Councilor Junjun Binay**, daughters **Abby, Ann, JM** and eldest daughter **Nancy** with husband **Pepito** and first grandchild **Boogie**.

The prominent **Martel** clan occupied about seven tables with family and friends led by **Don Antonio Martel** and wife **Belen Ticzon**, workaholic socialite daughters **Tonette** and **Irene Martel Francisco** with good-looking husband, **Dr. Raul Francisco** and only daughter **Isabelle**, in-laws **Luis Gonzales** and **Vina Mercado** with daughter **Melissa** and son, car magazine publisher **Paolo Martel**. A few tables away was the family and friends of **Philippine Ambassador to Rome Philip Lhuillier** with glamorous wife **Edna**, who was wearing her beautiful jewelry collection, just fit for the elegant ball. Celebrating with them were sons **Andre** and **Jean Henri Lhuillier** and wife Olympic star **Bea Lucero-Lhuillier**, who had her family over from the United States occupying another table. Others seen were **Jovie Cruz** and wife **Carla** with **Raffy Rufino, Joey** and **Beth Periquet**, the **Banzon** family and friends, **Jose Banzon, Jr.** and wife **Dorothy, Joel** and **Josephine Banzon, Mr.** and **Mrs. Don Saunder**, the **Limsin** family, ballroom enthusiast **Dr. Fely Cabral Schweitzer** and **Johnny Pilapil**. Also dancing the year away were banker **Ian Fenton** and wife **Marissa**, enterprising couple **Serge** and **Yolly Ayson**, fun couples **Lillibeth** and **Paqui Campos**, and **Emilio Tuason** and **Rica Thio**. Rotary president **Cynthia Reyes** brought her Rotarian friends like **Ruby Bairan** and company. Also there were **Sonny Tanchangco** and **John Gaddi** dancing with **Geena Zablan** who was with visiting friend **Victor Sasson**. A ballroom dancing event will not be complete without dance instructors who were plenty. Showing their terpsichorean skills were Eezy Dancing lead dancers **Egai Bautista** and **Gentry Mata**.

MAKATI first lady Dr. Elenita Binay

The lively music provided by **Gloria Gatmaitan's** fabulous 22-piece orchestra had everyone burning the dance floor even after the countdown, where black and gold colored balloons dropped from the ceiling and fireworks lit up the outdoor tropical garden in full view of the revelers. The crowd sang "Auld Lang Syne" in joyful anticipation of the New Year and everyone joined the snake dance around the dance floor. The treat of the evening was an exhibition of the chacha, rhumba, samba, and jive by National Junior dancesport champions **Reynier Mercado** and **Judith Melencio**. Other dancesport champions joined in the dancing like **Erolle Melencio, Belinda Adore** and **Miguel dela Serna**, who danced as if they were in a dance competition.

Because of the success of this event, Shangri-La is planning another big bash soon. And why not?

PHILIPPINE Ambassador to Rome Philip Lhuillier with beauteous wife, Edna

Breaking new groumd

Her life was as unconventional as her dancing. **IsadoraDuncan** pioneered in modern dance, a movement, which in the early years of the 20th century, developed into a new alternative art form alongside classical ballet. With her emancipated attitude to life, she was also a heroine of the fledgling suffragist movement.

"ISADORA," the first figure of the new Swarovski Collectors Society trilogy 2002, makes her grand entrance—"In the Spirit of Isadora Duncan."

"Isadora" is the name of the Annual Edition 2002 of the new Swarovski Collectors Society trilogy "Magic of Dance," the first piece of which is dedicated to this genre. In naming the figure after her, Swarovski pays homage to **Duncan**, who made waves for her instinctive performance and plastique quality.

Breaking new ground

Her life was devoted to her art, her overwhelming passion for dance. Born in San Francisco in 1877, **Isadora** left school at the tender age of 11 to earn her living as a dancing teacher. Following relatively unsuccessful stage performances in Chicago and New York, 22-year-old **Isadora** left for Europe, where she hoped to realize her dream of a new style of dance. She sought inspiration in the study of nature and classic Greek art and drama. **Isadora**'s dance costumes—transparent Greek-style tunics—bear witness to this influence.

In the great cities of Euope, **Isadora** met a number of kindred spirits. In London—as an outward expression of her new "System of Natural Dance,"—**Isadora** exchanged her detested ballet shoes for sandals, in Paris she appeared on stage barefoot for the first time. By 1902-03, her solo performances in Vienna, Budapest, Munich and Berlin had won her great acclaim. **Isadora** began to use the music of **Wagner, Chopin** and **Beethoven** for her dance choreography.

Her penchant for the waltzes of Austrian composer **Johann Strauss** is evident in her choreography of his "On the beautiful blue Danube," which she performed in Budapest in 1902. Her deep involvement in Greek mythology and the classics is apparent in the titles of her dances, which include "Orpheus," "Bacchanale" and her performance of Wagner's "Tannhauser."

Her nature-inspired choreographies are equally expressive and sensual. The greatest natural influence on her dance was the element of water. "Everything else pales into insignificance next to her fire and her motion," said a devoted **John Cocteau** in admiration of her dance.

Legacy

Isadora Duncan wanted to pass on her dream of a "Dance of the Future" to others. She took the first step in this direction when she and her sister **Elisabeth** established a boarding school for "Free Dance" in a villa in Grunewald, a suburb of Berlin, in 1904. The school was financed by **Isadora**'s theater performances and soon received further support from the tours of her dance students, known as the "Isadorables."

The German school changed its location many times but continued to exist. It was followed by a number of new **Duncan** dance school all over the world, which were founded by former students of **Duncan**. Thus, the legacy of **Duncan** dance has been kept alive up to the present day. A shining example of this is the **Isadora Duncan Dance Foundation**, under the direction of **Lori Belilove**, with which Swarovski entered into a cooperation on the occasion of the Annual Edition 2002.

Tragedies

Her lifestyle was equally unconventional. Young **Isadora** declared that she would spend her life fighting "against marriage and for the emancipation of women—and for the right of every woman to have a child or children when she wishes and still retain her virtue."

Isadora had a large number of lovers and fell in love time and time again. She had two children by two different men, and only at the age of 45 did she break her vow and marry the Russian poet **Sergei Esenin**, 18 years her junior. The marriage barely lasted a year and **Esenin** committed suicide. Isadora also lost her two children when they were drowned in a tragic automobile accident. She sought comfort in her dance and her students."

In spite of all her affairs, the great love of **Isadora**'s life remained her art. For her art and her students, she was even prepared to throw all misgivings overboard. On the invitation of the Soviet government, she founded a state-subsidized dance school in Moscow in 1921, since the Western European government had refused to support her plans. During this "Russian period" (1921-25) **Isadora** created such memorable choreographies as the "Marche Slave" and "Impressions of Revolutionary Russia."

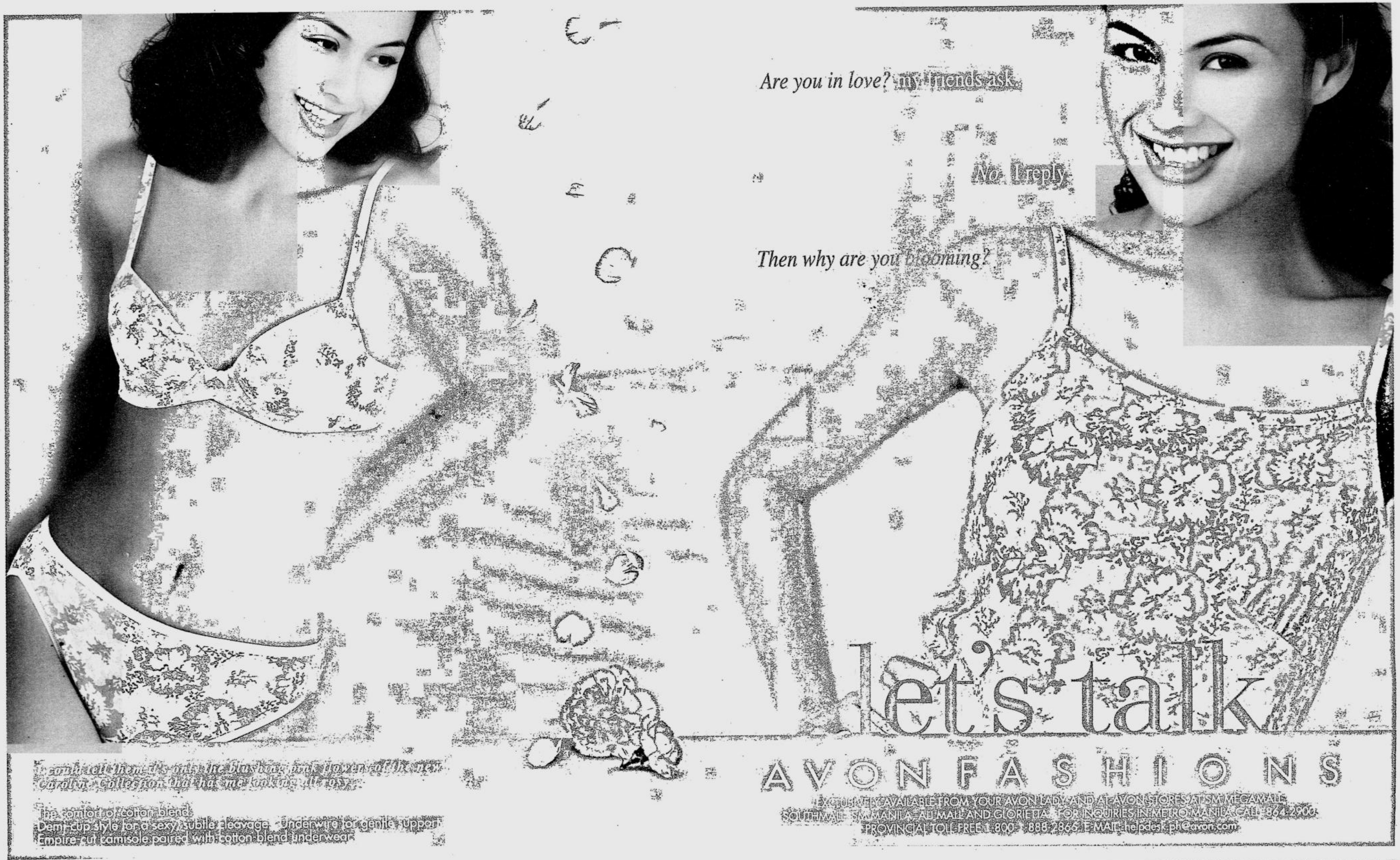
Even **Isadora**'s death at the age of 50 was rather dramatic. She died in an automobile accident in Nice with her long silk scarf caught in the spokes of the wheel of her Bugatti.

Tribute in crystal

With its 2002 Annual Edition **"Isadora"** the Swarovski Collectors Society has erected a sparkling monument to modern dance. Everything about **"Isadora"** is characteristic of modern dance: the expressive pose, loose hair, bare feet, flowing blue scarf and floor-length skirt with its elongated crystal facets. The successful fusion of these bold elements with such filigree crystal details as the movable facetted bangles was made possible by the very latest developments in Swarovski's production technology.

"Isadora," the first Annual Edition of the "Magic of Dance" trilogy has been produced exclusively for members of the Swarovski Collectors Society. It is available from authorized retailers such as Rustan's . **"Isadora"** comes with a certificate signed by Swarovski and designer **Adi Stocker** guaranteeing the authenticity of the piece. The base is engraved with the Swarovski logo.

DUNCAN dancer in free form


Are you in love? my friends ask.
No. I reply.
Then why are you blooming?
let's talk
AVON FASHIONS
I could tell them it's only the blushing pink flowers of the new Caroline Collection that has me looking all rosy.
The comfort of cotton blend.
Demi-cup style for a sexy, subtle cleavage. Underwire for gentle support.
Empire-cut camisole paired with cotton blend underwear.
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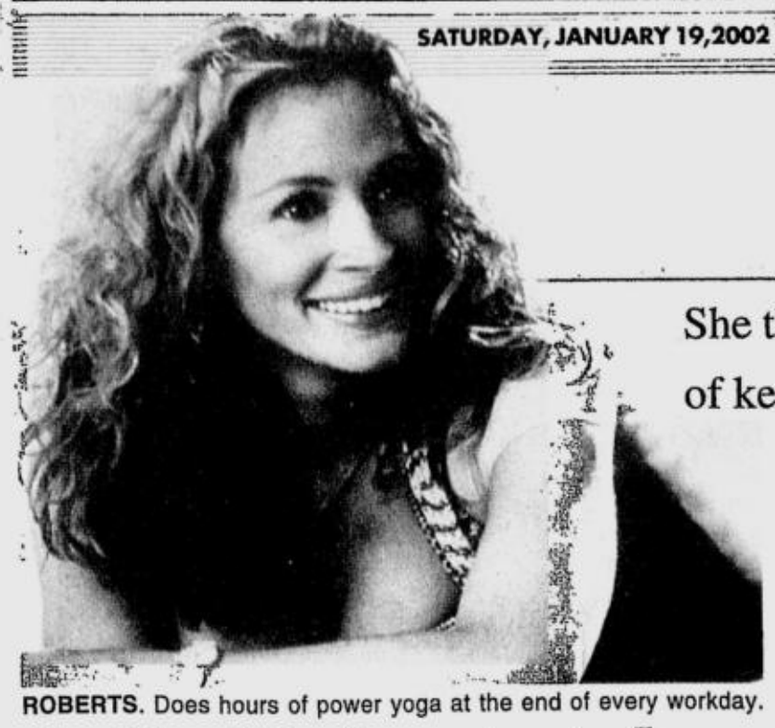

ROBERTS. Does hours of power yoga at the end of every workday.

She thinks George Clooney is the greatest and loves his goofy way of keeping people entertained on a movie set

Julia Roberts takes time out for fun

BY BOB GOEN

DOES Julia Roberts have a secret love interest? Find out what got America's Sweetheart blushing—as she sat down with this journalist for an intimate conversation about Warner Bros.' new No. 1 crime comedy "Ocean's Eleven," George Clooney, and the Sept. 11 attacks:

Question: So, are you dating again?

Roberts: Oh, God, really, I can't believe you did this to me. (laughs).

Single

This is just for me! I'm single again.

Are you? Note to self… Well I'm not (dating).

Ok, that's the way it should be. Am I blushing, can you see?

I'm having a complete meltdown! (laughs)

So "Ocean's Eleven" is the first remake you've ever done, right?

You'd probably know better than me.

The original was not a great movie when it first came out…

Yeah, so we had nowhere to go but up! How'd you find our movie?

It's fun. But when I'm watching, because I watch movies in a different way than most people, I'm thinking, "How do you keep all those stars in check?"

Well, liquor. That's a one-word answer! We were all there because we wanted to be there, so in that regard, everybody simmered down.

Oh, I see, in terms of egos. I was thinking in terms of partying!

Oh, no! None of us party. George Clooney spends a lot of time in his prayer group. And Brad Pitt has been studying physics and architecture. Matt Damon splits atoms between, like 8 and 12.

I just do hours of power yoga at the end of every workday, and Steven Soderbergh usually brings the booze up.

Now with you and George there's—chemistry?

Similar

I had never met George before, and I'm hoping to return to that phase in my life. (Laughs) No, I love George, he's great, but we're very similar people.

In what way?

We're both kind of idiots, goofy, silly, anything to keep people entertained on a movie set. George is really smart, and just loves it when people are enjoying themselves, which I really admire.

Obviously, we're in troubled times after Sept. 11. Were you in New York when that happened?

I was not. I had family and friends in New York, though.

How'd you find out about it?

My phone rang that morning, and it was my friend Marcus saying, "I think you need to go find a TV and turn it on."

I couldn't really comprehend what I was seeing, it made no sense to me on any level. I tried to make some phone calls in New York. I was fortunate enough to get through to my sister Lisa before I became hysterical. I called everyone I knew.

I'm at a loss for words, because I don't believe in aggression, I don't believe in a combative approach to this, necessarily. I also don't believe that I know anything.

I can't imagine the suffering people have had to endure, it's inconceivable. It's just one of those hard times that we have to hold one another's hands as best we can to get through.

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CANDIDO (Behn Cervantes, right) and Pablito (Anton Juan), the old bachelor brothers in "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino."

A SCENE from 'The Royal Scandal,' the Hallmark Channel's Sherlock Holmes feature on Jan. 20.

Jolina's transition film

JOLINA Magdangal's new starrer, "Kung Ikaw Ay Isang Panaginip," is an important "transition" film for the popular young star.

To date, she has generated a lot of hits by playing ditzy, colorful, idiosyncratic, teen-trendsetting tomboy types.

Now that she's in her early '20s, however, it's time for her to move on to young-adult roles, and her new movie could be just the ticket with which to take this crucial step.

In the film, Jolina plays a vendor, an inveterate dreamer who has an MRT operator (Leandro Muñoz) for an admirer, but fantasizes that a popular model played by Rafael Rosell is her boyfriend.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Since both Leandro and Rafael are relative newcomers, Jolina has to "carry" the movie pretty much by her lonesome. That would be a problem if the film doesn't do well, but it would be a decided feather in her cap if it proves to be a smash hit.

The big question is, will Jolina's teenybopper fans, who've loved her kooky ways, experiments in hair coloring and "*babaing bakla*" feistiness, still be able to relate to her without (some of) those juvenile gimmicks?

The shift in acting styles doesn't have to be all that sudden or radical, but it must eventually be taken, or else Jolina will end up like some of our actresses, who have been criticized for still playing it sassy and spunky despite the fact that they're already into their '30s, and *way* too old for such silly shticks.

To her credit, Jolina has more than kookiness going for her. She also acts, sings and dances well—an unusual combination of abilities to find on the local performing scene.

So, we trust that Jolina's new film will help her make a successful transition to young-adult stardom. As for her teen fans' support, they could very well give it because they've also been growing up in the last few years, and could even welcome Jolina's new moves, instead of adamantly insisting on living in the past.

Behn and Anton

Theater buffs know that Behn Cervantes and Anton Juan are starring in the latest staging of Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino" at the CCP next month. But some of them think that Behn and Anton are playing the leading roles of the spinster siblings, Paula and Candida Marasigan, in drag.

To disabuse everyone of that misimpression, we're running a photo of Behn and Anton in this space showing them in men's clothes, which is how they will appear in the play.

That's right, they won't be playing women—instead, they will be Pablito and Candido Marasigan, confirmed bachelors and gay—but no drag queens. Over and out.

'The Royal Scandal'

Sherlock Holmes attempts to untangle a high-society controversy in "The Royal Scandal" on the Hallmark Channel at 9 p.m. on Jan. 20. The Kingdom of Bohemia is on the verge of a royal scandal as its king (Robin Wilcock), already engaged to a Scandinavian princess, is blackmailed by an opera star (Liliana Kornorowska).

Matt Frewer and Kenneth Walsh play Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, respectively. The special will be shown again at 10 a.m. on Jan. 21.

Ladine at Arkadia

Ladine Roxas, winner of the Voice of Asia competition, will have a special concert at Arkadia on Remedios st. in Malate on Jan. 30 Call 400-9974.

After the concert, Ladine will go on a tour to promote her debut album for Viva Records, which also showcases her talent as songwriter.

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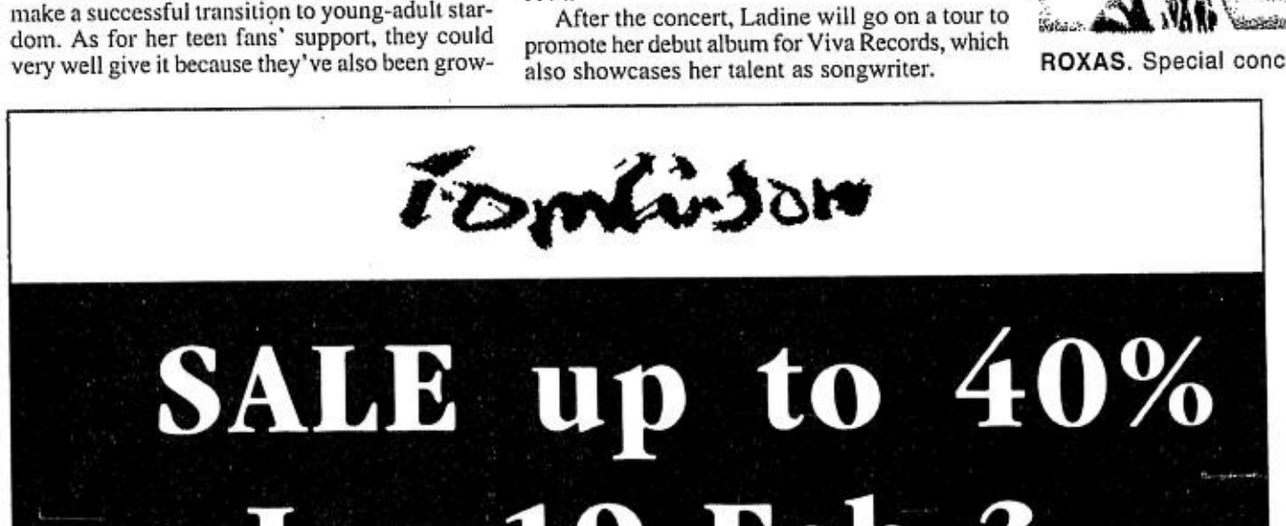

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Lynch heads Cannes jury

PARIS—American film director David Lynch will head the jury at the 55th Cannes Film Festival in May, festival officials said Friday last week.

Lynch's film "Mulholland Drive" won best director honors at the festival last year, and his film "Wild at Heart" won the top prize for film—the Palme d'Or—in 1990.

"I am filled with excitement, fear and the full meaning of responsibility as I accept this honor, to be named president of the 55th Festival de Cannes, the greatest film festival in the world," he said in a statement.

"I will do my best to help continue the festival's great tradition of spotlighting and celebrating world cinema through friendly competition," he said.

The festival runs May 15-26, and the rest of the jury is expected to be announced in April. ***AP***

LYNCH. His film, "Mulholland Drive," won best director honors at the festival last year.

'Lord of the Rings' narrowly outpaces rivals at box office

On its fourth weekend, it takes in $16.2 M, for a total gross to date of $228M

LOS ANGELES—Frodo Baggins and his fellowship had their closest call yet at the box office, but stayed No. 1 for the fourth straight weekend.

Teen comedy

"The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" took in $16.2 million, for a total gross of $228 million. Close behind were "A Beautiful Mind," starring Russell Crowe as a schizophrenic math genius, and the teen comedy "Orange County," the only movie to open in wide release over the weekend.

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday last week, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and ACNielsen EDI Inc. are:

1. "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," New Line, $16.2 million, 3,381 locations, $4,792 average, $228.3 million, four weeks.

2. "A Beautiful Mind," Universal, $15.2 million, 2,222 locations, $6,850 average, $58.4 million, four weeks.

3. "Orange County," Paramount, $15.1 million, 2,317 locations, $6,497 average, one week.

'Ocean's Eleven'

4. "Ocean's Eleven," Warner Bros., $7.7 million, 2,670 locations, $2,898 average, $162.7 million, six weeks.

5. "The Royal Tenenbaums," Disney, $6.4 million, 905 locations, $7,081 average, $30 million, five weeks.

6. "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius," Paramount, $5.5 million, 2,810 locations, $1,966 average, $69.1 million, four weeks.

7. "Vanilla Sky," Paramount, $5 million, 2,770 locations, $1,814 average, $88.5 million, five weeks.

8. "Kate & Leopold," Miramax, $4.7 million, 2,467 locations, $1,923 average, $37.2 million, four weeks.

9. "Gosford Park," USA Films, $3.68 million, 518 locations, $7,113 average, $6.6 million, three weeks.

"LORD OF THE RINGS." Manages to stay ahead of "A Beautiful Mind" and "Orange County."

10. "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," Warner Bros., $3.67 million, 2,170 locations, $1,693 average, $305.3 million, nine weeks.

11. "Ali," Sony, $3.3 million, 2,521 locations, $1,322 average, $54.5 million, four weeks.

12. "In the Bedroom," Miramax, $2.9 million, 424 locations, $6,730 average, $7.9 million, eight weeks.

13. "Monsters, Inc.," Disney, $2.2 million, 1,313 locations, $1,672 average, $247.5 million, 11 weeks.

'How High'

14. "How High," Universal, $2.1 million, 1,237 locations, $1,725 average, $27.3 million, four weeks.

15. "Beauty and the Beast Special Edition," Disney, $2.07 million, 68 locations, $30,492 average, $7.7 million, two weeks.

16. "The Majestic," Warner Bros., $1.48 million, 1,905 locations, $776 average, $25.7 million, four weeks.

17. "Behind Enemy Lines," Fox, $1.449 million, 963 locations, $1,505 average, $55.6 million, seven weeks.

18. "Impostor," Miramax, $1.446 million, 1,870 locations, $773 average, $5.3 million, two weeks.

19. "The Shipping News," Miramax, $1.2 million, 266 locations, $4,523 average, $5.9 million, four weeks.

20. "Amelie," Miramax, $1.1 million, 260 locations, $4,201 average, $19.3 million, 11 weeks. *AP*

MTV Asia Awards 2002
Categories & Nominees

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST- Philippines
(Keyword: MUSICARTIST)
A - Freestyle
B - Gary Valenciano
C - Lea Salonga
D - Martin Nievera
E - Regine Velasquez

FAVORITE MALE ARTIST
(Keyword:MALEARTIST)
A - Eminem
B - Ricky Martin
C - Robbie Willams
D - Ronan Keating
E - Shaggy

FAVORITE FEMALE ARTIST
(Keyword: FEMALEARTIST)
A - Britney Spears
B - Christina Aguilera
C - Jennifer Lopez
D - Madonna
E - Mariah Carey

FAVORITE POP ACT
(Keyword: POPACT)
A - Backstreet Boys
B - Destiny's Child
C - M2M
D - N'Sync
E - Westlife

FAVORITE ROCK ACT
(Keyword: ROCKACT)
A - Bon Jovi
B - Coldplay
C - Limp Bizkit
D - Linkin Park
E - U2

FAVORITE VIDEO
(Keyword: VIDEO)
A - The Call (Backstreet Boys)
B - Weapon of Choice (Fatboy Slim)
C - 19-2000 (Gorillaz)
D - POP (N'Sync)
E - Lady Marmalade (Pink, Christina Aguilera, Mya, Lil' Kim)

FAVORITE BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST (Keyword: BREAKTHROUGH)
A - Coldplay
B - Gorillaz
C - Nelly Furtado
D - Alicia Keys
E - Linkin Park

FAVORITE FILM
(Keyword: FILM)
A - Charlie's Angels
B - Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
C - Rush Hour 2
D - Pearl Harbor
E - Shrek
F - The Mummy Returns

FAVORITE FASHION DESIGNER
(Keyword: FASHION)
A - Donatella Versace (Versace)
B - John Galliano (Christian Dior)
C - Marc Jacobs (Louis Vuitton/ Marc Jacobs)
D - Miuccia Prada (Prada/Miu Miu)
E - Stella McCartney
F - Tom Ford (Gucci/ YSL)

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Noel Cabangon tells us how it is in 'Pasakalye'

BY NOELANI TORRE

NOEL Cabangon tells it like it is. He doesn't sentimentalize, trivialize, whitewash or, worse, harangue. That's why we so enjoyed his first collection of his own compositions, "Pasakalye."

Released by the Jesuit Communications Foundation Inc., "Pasakalye" is composed of 16 tracks—14 original songs and two reprises (of the first and seventh tracks). All are in Filipino except for tracks 10 ("Dancing Angels") and 16 ("One World of Peace") which are in English, and track 11 ("Panawenen") which is in Ilocano.

Snatches

We've heard of Noel Cabangon before, of course, though we can't say that we were familiar with his music. We'd only heard snatches of it when we were with our "*tibak*" friends who regard him as a demigod of sorts. Not surprising, as his songs are socially aware and very "*makabayan*."

In the CD's inlay, he is described as a "*makabayang kompositor-mangaawit na pinanday ng may dalawang dekada ng pagtugtog at pakikihamok.*" *Tumpak*, if we do say so ourselves. From his songs we can feel his love for his country, especially for the downtrodden many—"*ang mga alikabok ng ating lipunan.*"

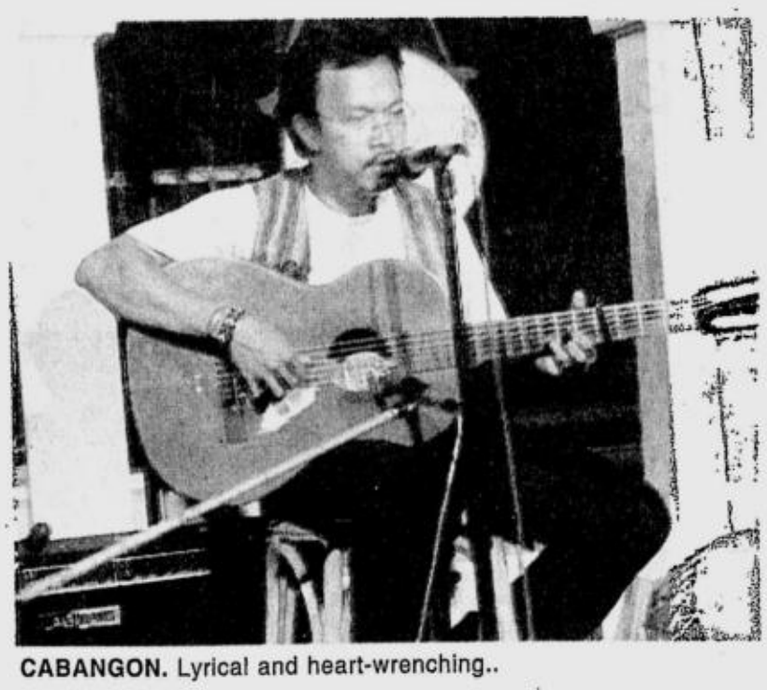
Despite his latent "*pagmamalasakit sa kapwa*," Noel Cabangon doesn't preach. As we mentioned earlier, what he does is to tell it like it is. Or maybe that's not the right way to describe it, rather, he shows us *how* it is.

In the first two tracks, for example, "Kayod Kabayo, Kayod Barya" (track 1) and "Jeepney Driver Blues" (track two), he uses the first person point-of-view to describe a day in the life of two individuals who work the streets of Manila.

Street vendor

"Kayod Kabayo, Kayod Barya" is the "*pang-araw-araw na pasyon*" of a street vendor who makes the rounds of Rotonda, España and Morayta. "*Ako'y naglalakad, naglalako maghapon*," he sings. "*Ibig ko lang naman ay konting barya. Malamnan lang ang gutom na sikmura.*"

The refrain—"*Kayod kabayo, kayod barya. Habol hininga, habol pera*"—is catchy, and that has a certain irony to it. This guy is in despair, after all, but he sings in a sort of upbeat tone and one finds oneself singing along with him. We did that, only to stop in mid-"*kayod*" because we realized that we did not have to "*kayod nang kayod kahit na hinihikab*" like this guy. And there are thousands like him all over this country.



CABANGON. Lyrical and heart-wrenching..

In "Jeepney Driver Blues," the blue driver has an attitude which we find very Pinoy. He bemoans his lot in life but at the same time he has an accepting air towards it. "*Ganyan ang buhay*," he sings slowly, "*ng* jeepney driver. "*Sa buong araw na pasada, 'jingle' lang ang pahinga . . . Pag may konti nang kita pwede nang pumarada.*"

Ironic

The third track. "Hari ng Kalye" is ironic as the "*hari*" turns out to be a "*taong kalye*"—"*alikabok siya ng ating lipunan.*" "Usok, Usok," the fourth track, is the only song familiar to us in the whole recording. It's an environmental commentary, with the singer sounding more or less like any one of us. It describes situations you can find yourself in—"*Isang araw ako'y nagaabang ng sasakyan sa Cubao, patungo ng Baclaran/ Nang biglang sa harap ko'y/ Humarurot ang sasakyan/ At ako'y binugahan ng . . ./ Usok, usok.*" The refrain is quite catchy, and with its fast beat this song became the favorite of the younger members of our household. Well, it's actually one of our favorites, too.

"Pasakalye" also has some rather sweet love songs. Not cloying, mind you, but sweetly simple. These are "Dahil Nariyan Ka, "Simpleng Musikero," and "Dalampasigan ng Puso." The lyrics are simple but very meaningful.

The songs in English—"Dancing Angels" and "One World of Peace"—are equally evocative. "Dancing Angels" in particular is quite lyrical and heart-wrenching.

It sounds as if we've been gushing all throughout this piece but our advice is listen to the album, and you'll see—or hear—why.

Insights

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THE LAST Christmas holiday was generally quiet and peaceful. There was less money for spending on goods, drinking alcohol, buying fireworks, etc. Therefore, there was less garbage, less violence and accidents, less smog and pollution. Less money doesn't always mean problems. It can mean a simpler and peaceful life!

Politicians

Politics is a snake pit where true friends rarely and barely exist. Envious politicians stab each other in the back and spit venom at each other's face. Yet they declare their great love for God, country and society. Beware of such wolves in sheep's clothing!

* * *

Selfish politicians befriend you when you have power and money, so they can use you. They manipulate events to further their own greed. Should they be called leaders?

* * *

A great sage once said, "Politics sets man against man, brother against brother. It pushes parties to oppose one another and see the other as enemy." Politics is not the solution to our problems. Rather, it is itself a problem.

Terrorists

Terrorists have often used the name of religion to further their own interests and ambitions, but they do not really represent religion. In truth, they only speak of politics, not of true love for God and His children.

* * *

The best leaders are those who have no ambition to succeed in this world but have the selfless motivation to serve both God and society.

* * *

Marines and policemen shoot at each other during a peace rally. Thus do the so-called protectors and peacekeepers of society display their total lack of qualification for the job. Guns should never be given to those who are under the control of arrogance, anger and greed.

* * *

They think they can use guns to keep peace. Do they want people to just rest in peace?

Making peace

One subject matter taught in ancient Vedic schools was the art of war and making peace. Warriors were not only trained in fighting techniques, but also in strategies and ethics in fighting.

They were also taught how to make peace whenever the situation arose. They fought bravely in battle, celebrated victory with discipline, surrendered humbly in defeat and spoke with wisdom and compassion to bring peace to those they met.

Today, people fight in a cowardly manner, celebrate with arrogance and abuse, surrender with vengeance and anger in their hearts, and speak with foolishness and bitterness to bring misery to the world.

* * *

A gun doesn't make a warrior. Depending on how and when it is used, it reveals if the user is a dangerous fool or a valiant protector of the innocent and weak.

Dangerous

The more materialistic and greedy society becomes, the more dangerous and foolish people are. We have more crimes, addiction and corruption. We became greedy for that which will cause us more pain!

* * *

The more spiritual and compassionate society becomes, the more safe and peaceful life is. We have fewer wars, anxieties and miseries. We attain the best things in life when we focus our hearts on the things that are not of this world.

* * *

The choice of what kind of society we build is entirely ours. And we will be there to reap all the fruits and results of our decision. A good decision is all that is required to experience good results.

Sin

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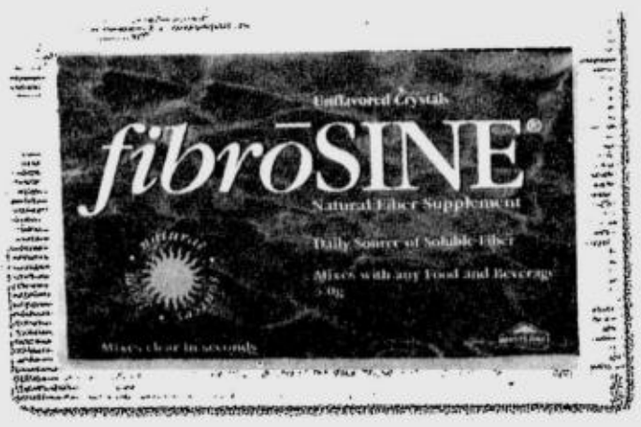

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CAST OF "AMERICAN ADOBO." From left, Ricky Davao, Paolo Montalban, Dina Bonnevie, Cherrie Pie Picache, Sandy Andolong and Christopher de Leon.

Great opening, dour conclusion

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

"AMERICAN Adobo" has a great opening—mouth-watering shots of Pinoy "soul" food, lovingly photographed and served in all its scrumptious, tropical glory.

This enticing beginning is followed by a number of lively, exhilarating scenes showing longtime Filipino friends in New York interacting with each other in various ways.

Light comedy

We love the way that Laurice Guillen's movie uses light comedy and satire to say a number of instructive, insightful things about Pinoy expatriates in the Big Apple—the lives they left behind back home, the lives they're trying to make for themselves in a foreign land, and how they try to make these two apposite aspects of themselves fuse, no matter how awkwardly.

We appreciate the film's intent not because it's all that fresh—indeed, a number of other movies have tried to achieve it in the past—but because its take is particularly insightful.

In fact, the lessons the movie teaches have a lot to say not just to Fil-Americans, but also to Philippines-based Pinoys, who are similarly trying to "find" themselves, somewhere between the East and the West, to resolve the old conundrum imposed on us by our many colonizers.

Homegrown

We also like the fact that the movie employs American technique to express a distinctly Filipino sensibility. Visually, the film doesn't look Pinoy, but it sounds and feels homegrown, despite the fact that it was filmed in New York City.

This further underscores the movie's ability to express our composite, contradictory, even fractured essence.

The film works well as long as it keeps its tongue firmly in cheek. When its script turns serious during its final third, however, it belabors its rather obvious points and the film occasionally disappoints.

The movie really didn't have to turn so dour, because it was making a lot of strong points while keeping things blithe and biting.

Expatriates

All told, however, the movie remains a fun and rewarding viewing experience. It's being enjoyed by Fil-American viewers because it's about them, by non-Pinoy moviegoers because it also says a lot about expatriates in general, and by audiences here because it shows how a Filipino movie can remain Pinoy while using American gloss and sass to tell its story in a way that can be appreciated by audiences everywhere.

Aside from Guillen's direction, the film's other plus points include some of its performances, its vivid visuals and editing, and its relatively fresh attitude that fits in well with the "new" film audience that's slowly but surely emerging in this country.

Profile

Since moviegoeing is no longer cheap in these parts, the profile of the Pinoy film audience has changed in the last five years or so: it's no longer predominantly C-D-E, but B-C.

This middle-class audience is more open to stories, themes and characters that they can relate to, so our filmmakers now have the option to come up with more thematically provocative and stylistically savvy movies—like "American Adobo."

Let's hope that more such films will soon be forthcoming—but with fewer encumbrances, please.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

'Rants, Raves, and Monologues'

BY NOELANI TORRE

"I JUST call it Performance," says Mark Russell in his Foreword to "Out of Character," referring to "the field of what might be called Performance Art or solo theatre." This "theatre with an attitude" hasn't yet established itself here but it has been "the weapon of choice" for many performing artists in the States and Europe for at least 25 years now. We were lucky to see a few such performances before, so we understand why the form has made such an impact and why it is still cutting edge after more than two decades.

Torch

"Performance carried the torch of experimental theatre and dance through the eighties," explains Russell. "It was a form that wasn't a form, an ever-adaptable virus of theatre.... It constantly reinvents disciplines for its own time. It rediscovers rituals on the artist's own terms." Russell is an authority on this, as he has been the artistic director of P.S. 122 since 1983. Performance Space 122 was started by some New York performance artists and named after the former school building that now houses it. According to "Booklist," "P.S. 122 became in the 1980s one of the most important perform art venues in the country and launched hundreds of performances famously, including Eric Bogosian, Tim Miller, and Danny Hoch."

Arts center

The folks behind P.S. 122 describe it as "a not-for-profit arts center serving the New York City dance and performance community." This is their vision/mission of sorts: "P.S. 122 is committed to supporting the development of work by individual artists who create live art with an authentic vision.

"We are fully dedicated to finding, developing, and bringing to the public eye artistic creations from a diversity of cultures, points of view, ages, and sexual orientations."

"Out of Character: Rants, Raves, and Monologues from Today's Top Performance Artists" (Bantam) is an anthology of the work of 31 artists, most of whom have gone through P.S. 122. Edited by Mark Russell, this is the first collection of its kind and it includes work from some "superstars" in Performance Art like Laurie Anderson, Eric Bogosian, Spalding Gray, and John Leguizamo.

Up-and-coming talents are not ignored, however, and the likes of Penny Arcade, Robbie McCauley, and Nicky Paraiso get their share of exposure.

"This book is structured very much like a season at P.S. 122," says Russell "At P.S. 122 there are no themes, no series. The audience is left to its own devices to make connections between pieces and artists."

Diversity

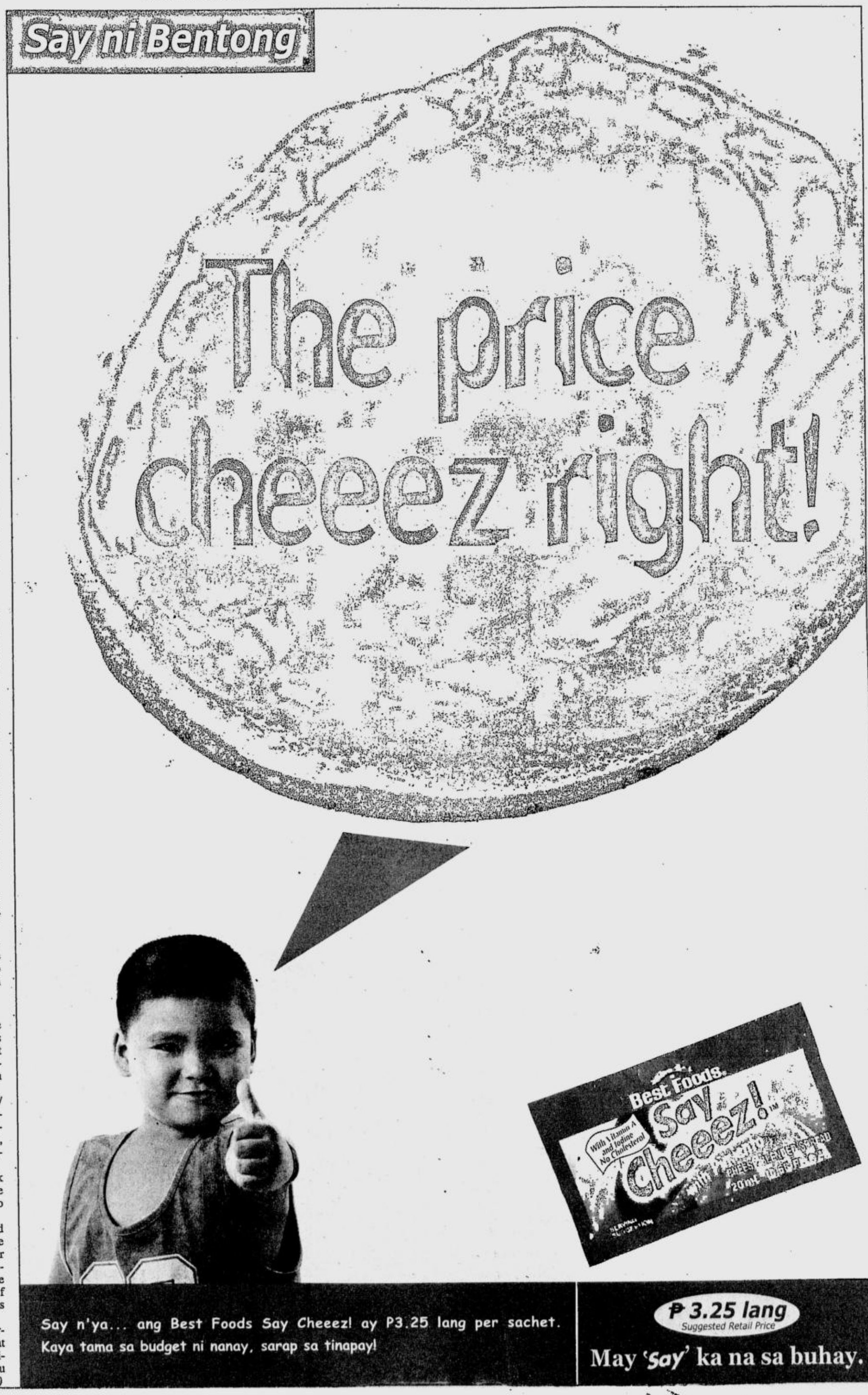
We've never watched a P.S. 122 performance act, but there are indeed no single unifying themes in this book. We welcome the diversity but, not being entirely familiar with this field, the presence of even a few guiding hints would have been a great help.

Each of the artists is a chapter in himself/herself, and aside from the text of the performance itself, every chapter also includes a flippant biography, questionnaire, artist's notes, and a full-page photograph of the featured artist.

Even in this there is great variety. Some took the questionnaire seriously and some lightly. The artists' notes range from almost-dissertations to rants and raves.

We gain much insight in this section and it helps us to put the following scripts (we use the term loosely here) in their proper context. The framework itself is very casual, however, and the flippancy of the "Playboy"-type questionnaire jars most of the time with the seriousness of the artist's notes.

Still, these are minor points and they are forgotten once one starts reading the scripts. What can we say? They are intriguing, certainly. Captivating, darkly humorous, strange, shocking—you name it, they've got it! *(To be concluded)*



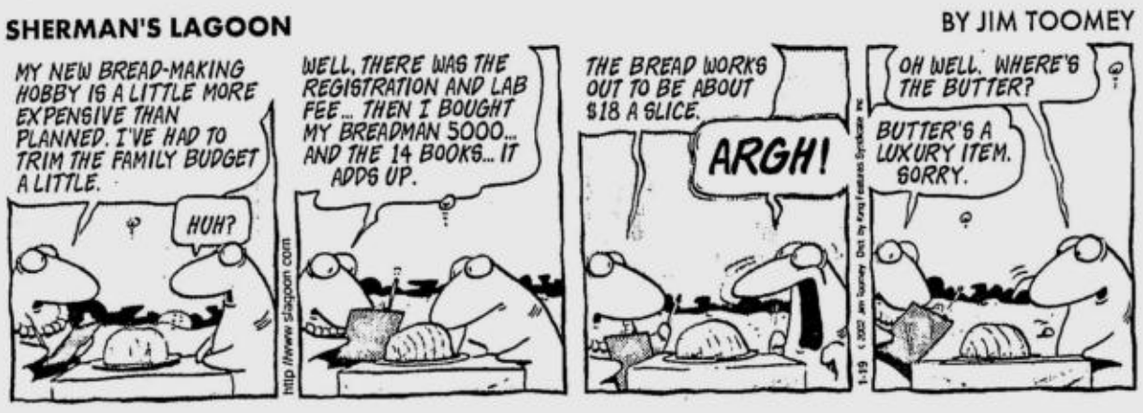
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

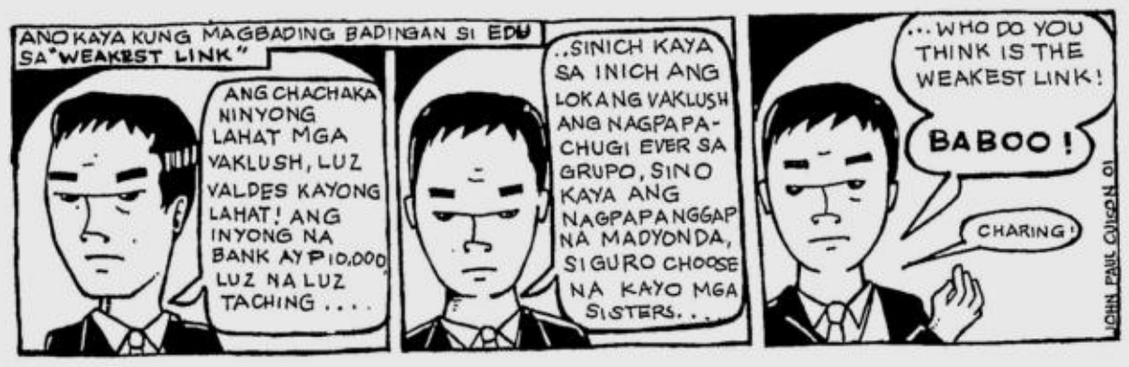
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

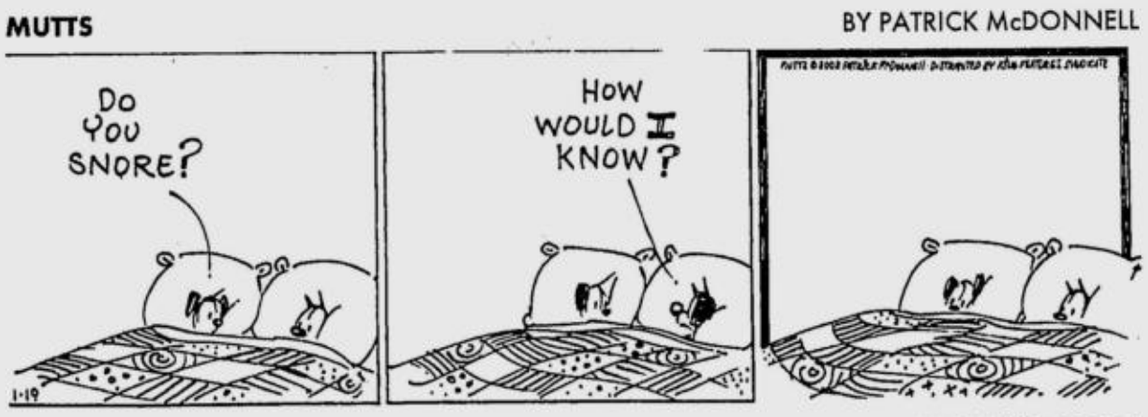
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL CUISON



BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dolly Parton, Robert Palmer, Shelley Fabares, Jean Stapleton
Happy Birthday: Your sensitivity will be at an all-time high this year. Get your priorities straight and don't let anyone get away with anything that might end up costing you emotionally or financially. Prepare to take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way. Your numbers are 12, 16, 23, 25, 37, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You need an outlet today. Go to the gym or for a long power walk in order to blow off steam.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Dealing with hospitals or other institutions will be difficult today. Look to those you trust for sound advice. You should be putting your efforts into making a little extra cash on the side.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You should get involved in something that you really believe in today. If you attend a group meeting you are likely to make new acquaintances.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't hesitate to put in a few extra hours at work. However, be prepared to try to satisfy the ones you love as well as your boss.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be a little confused regarding your personal life. It's time to reevaluate your motives and your emotional commitment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You should be looking over some of your personal papers. You will be prone to take a financial risk or think that you have more money in the bank than you do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You had better be careful when dealing with others. You could easily offend someone unintentionally. Be sensitive to the needs of those around you and you won't have a problem.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It may not be a regular workday for you but that is no reason to sit idle. Put your energy into finding new ways to make a little extra cash.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You should be on the move today. The more ground you cover the better. Travel for business or pleasure will lead to new connections.

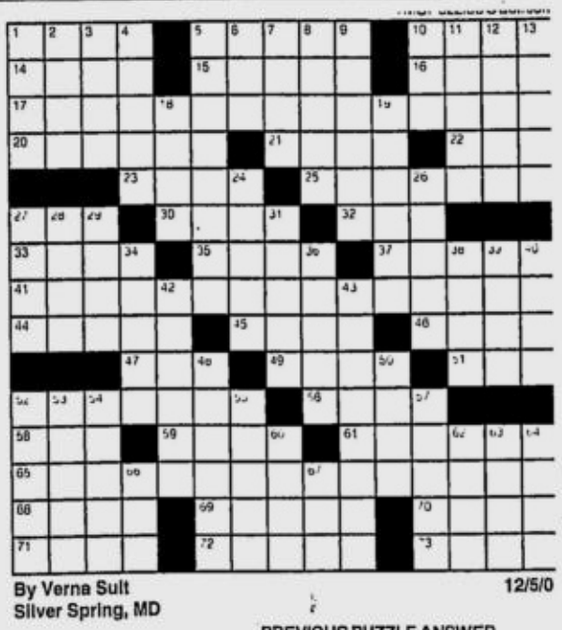
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Personal problems may emerge if you overreact to situations going on with loved ones. It may be time to check your own motives.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You should plan to do things with friends today. Your entertaining personality will bring you popularity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It is best to fend for yourself. You should avoid overspending or taking financial risks.

Birthday Baby: You will have a way with words that adds to your charm and your personality. You have strong ideas, and will stand up for your beliefs. You always take the road less traveled in order to create an intellectual challenge.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Verna Sult
Silver Spring, MD

12/5/0

ACROSS
1 Gardening tools
5 Handles of swords
10 Assists
14 Earthenware crock
15 Video-game company
16 Thought
17 Special cases
20 Contemptuous action
21 Art __
22 Lode load
23 "James and the Giant Peach" author
25 Gives
27 HHS agcy.
30 Opponents
32 NYC arena
33 Poetic measure
35 Pro __ (in proportion)
37 Grocery store lane
41 Special cases
44 German industrial city
45 Palm type
46 Merit
47 Tack on
49 Treat on a pillow
51 Pod orb
52 Bar
56 Author Hunter
58 Thurman of "Batman & Robin"
59 Report type
61 Weds quickly
65 Special cases
68 Chilled
69 Rand's shrugger
70 Remote button
71 Schools of whales
72 Sierra __
73 Reduce speed

DOWN
1 Navajo neighbor
2 Lena or Ken
3 Pipe bends
4 Spanish toast
5 Hedge shrub
6 "__ a bird..."
7 Extol
8 Attempted
9 TV show with a laugh track
10 Lung filler
11 Moron
12 Tractor name
13 Vaults
18 Norwegian king
19 Dwarfed tree
24 Bounds
26 Nimble
27 One hand's count?
28 Speaker's platform
29 "A Perfect Peace" author Oz
31 Energy form
34 Misty
36 Dickinson of "Police Woman"
38 Crackle and Pop's pal
39 Decoy
40 Sicilian volcano
42 Homebound
43 Talk
48 Near the back
50 Bath powder
52 Dutch flower
53 Shell rival
54 Manhandled
55 Photo finish
57 Standards
60 "Le roi d'Ys" composer
62 Artist Cezanne
63 Inside: pref.
64 Impose a bias upon
66 Begley and Wynn
67 Singer Janis

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

M	A	L	T	A		C	B	E	R		S	A	G	E
A	V	I	A	N		L	O	L	A		H	U	L	L
J	A	C	K	O	F	A	L	L	T	R	A	D	E	S
A	S	K	E	D	O	U	T		I	O	D	I	N	E
			C	E	E	S		N	O	T	E			
P	I	S	A			E	G	O			S	E	E	M
I	N	T	R	A	Y		E	A	R	N		A	T	E
Q	U	E	E	N	O	F	T	H	E	N	I	G	H	T
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			L	A	W	N		O	R	B	S			
S	T	O	O	G	E		S	C	A	R	E	O	F	F
K	I	N	G	O	F	T	H	E	J	U	N	G	L	E
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S	E	E	N		S	E	A	T		N	E	E	D	S

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ANSWER ON MONDAY

French, German movies get star billing at Berlin Film Festival

BERLIN—French and German films will figure prominently at this year's Berlin International Film Festival, which boasts seven world premieres and several films that examine the Nazi era.

The Feb. 6-17 festival opens with the first showing of German director Tom Tykwer's "Heaven," a mixture of thriller, love story and moral drama starring Cate Blanchett and Giovanni Ribisi. Tykwer, considered Germany's hottest directing talent, had a hit in 1999 with "Run Lola Run."

Factory worker

Other premiere attractions movies are "8 Femmes" by Francois Ozon, a murder comedy featuring an all-star French cast with Cathérine Deneuve and Isabelle Huppert, and "Lundi Matin" by Otar Iosseliani, the story of a small-town French factory worker who yearns to break out of his daily routine.

Two US entries are among the initial 14 announced by organizers: "The Royal Tenenbaums" by Wes Anderson, a family saga with Gene Hackman, Anjelica Huston, Gwyneth Paltrow and Ben Stiller; and "Monster's Ball" by Marc Forster, a Deep South drama about racism with Peter Boyle, Billy Bob Thornton and Halle Berry.

Other premieres

Other premieres are Constantin Costa-Gavras' "The Deputy," based on a controversial stage play about the ties between the Vatican and the Nazi regime; "Minor Mishaps" by Danish director Annette K. Olesen, about the trials and tribulations of a family; and "A Map of the Heart" by Germany's Dominik Graf, where a woman copes with a separation from her partner.

GWYNETH PALTROW. Stars in US entry, "The Royal Tenenbaums."

Also entered in the competition for the Golden Bear top prize are Bertrand Tavernier's "Laissez-Passer" about a French film company torn between resistance and continuing to do business under Nazi occupation.

Harvey Keitel stars in Istvan Szabo's "Taking Sides," a critical look at how famed conductor Wilhelm Furtwaengler survived the Nazi era in Germany that will be shown outside the competition.

Veteran director Wim Wenders will debut a documentary film about the German rock group BAP.

This year's festival is the first under new director Dieter Kosslick. He takes over from longtime head Moritz de Hadeln, who stepped down last spring after his 22nd "Berlinale." *AP*

Gourmet specialties at Vancouver's Granville Island

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

VANCOUVER, Canada—One of the most popular places for tourists and locals here is Granville Island. It is a small and very interesting town that has quite a number of shops with various specialties.

Shops

The whole town can be toured in one morning. There are art galleries, shops selling locally made products, boats for rent, etc. They also have street performers. The most interesting place to me, of course, is the Public Market.

It is more than your typical market. The selection of goods is what sets it apart from the rest. It is a paradise for gourmet food and "foodies" will just go wild here.

Some of the food stalls here are:

Tenderland Meats. They sell fresh meats such as superior-grade Canadian beef, lamb, duck, rabbit, bacon, panchetta, bacon shavings, ham of various kinds and sausages. Other ready to cook items are lamb sausage, marinated rack of lamb, chicken de la mer (breaded chicken breast stuffed with cream cheese, scallops and shrimps), chicken florentine (breaded chicken stuffed with cream cheese and spinach), kiev (stuffed with butter, garlic and herbs), and much more.

Another shop, specializing in French ingredients, is Oyama Sausage. Here, they offer various pates such as champagne, duck, pheasant, rabbit, cognac and green pepper.

Sausages

They also have sausages and smoked meats—rheinlander, rockworst sausages, and others that looked so good but I could hardly pronounce their names. The smoked meats were prosciutto, salami, Polish krakoska, etc. They also had all kinds of French cheeses.

The salmon shop had different kinds of marinated fish—sundried tomato and garlic salmon, ginger snapper, Thai-style halibut, halibut steaks, fresh mahimahi, about six kinds of shrimps, scallops, smoked salmon, etc. The Okanagan shop specializes in turkey meat.

Laurelles Bakery Goods and Fine Foods offers penne chicken casserole, vegetable moussaka, shepherd's pie, different kinds of quiche, salmon rolls, etc. They also have a refrigerated section that sells sauces and ready-to-go soups. Some of the sauces are fresh dill mustard sauce and spicy honey mustard.

A La Mode serves pies and soups. They have pies like banana cream, coconut cream, blueberry, lemon meringue, pecan and pumpkin, salmon, and soups in bread as soup bowls.

Italian delis

There are two Italian delis, Duso's and Zara's. At Duso's, they have all sorts of pastas with different shapes and fillings, cheeses sauces, a variety of olive oils, marinated peppers and about 20 kinds of olives. I got a bottle of Truffle oil and had it with some spagettini and broiled Angus rib eye. Superb!

The fast food area has a nice homey layout. Cuisines offered are Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Greek, Polish and Russian. Very interesting!

Happy Eating!

sandydaza@hotmail.com

'STORYBOOK'

Love as the proverbial double-edged sword

BY LEIA TORRE

(Conclusion)

IN THE Company's "Storybook" album, hope also springs eternal in "Baka Ikaw," and prompts the singer to try to convince herself that she has indeed found that oh-so-elusive person she has been looking for.

Promises

The third offering of the album is "Pag Nagkataon," a song of hope and of promises made. It starts out a bit slow, but picks up the beat. There is a very soothing and harmonious blending of voices that gives it more character.

The story works on the premise that all promises made will be fulfilled if the longed-for reciprocation of love materializes. At the same time, it wonders whether reciprocation is imminent, or just possible, or highly improbable. Still, the song has more of a hopeful rather than despairing ring to it.

Anticipation

"I've Been There Before" is a song of anticipation. The beat is lively, and can almost be danced to. The theme is love the second time around. A sense of exhilaration accompanies the lyrics, intimating that love the second time around is in a sense freer than first love.

"Kung Kailan Pa" tells a story of regret and of chastisement. Of chasing after lost dreams and of admitting the truth too late for it to matter.

The star-crossed lovers theme that has tugged at heartstrings throughout history is also tackled.

Jazz beat

"Gusto Ko Ng A Capella" is the sixth song in the album. It extols the merits of singing *a capella*. The functions of the members of an *a capella* group are likewise enumerated. Of course, the song itself is performed *a capella*. The song has a jazzy beat, but it is quite repetitive and predictable, both in terms of lyrics and music.

"Sabi Ko Na Nga," is a song of confirmation, acceptance and fulfillment following a long wait. The confirmation in this instance comes from instinct. A touch of uncertainty is introduced later on in the song, when questions about the other person's feelings are brought into the open. The repetition of the chorus serves to answer these questions.

Lyrics

"Between the Lines" starts out slowly and simply, with the beat picking up during the chorus parts, and goes back to being simple during the succeeding stanzas. The lyrics enumerate circumstances when reading between the lines would be of tremendous help, especially to those who are afraid to communicate their feelings.

"Ikaw Pa Ba Yan?" is a slow, lonely song, with the cello lending an especially mournful note. The song shows how the changes in a person can affect a relationship. It goes on to wonder whether it's still possible to love someone who has turned into a person you don't recognize.

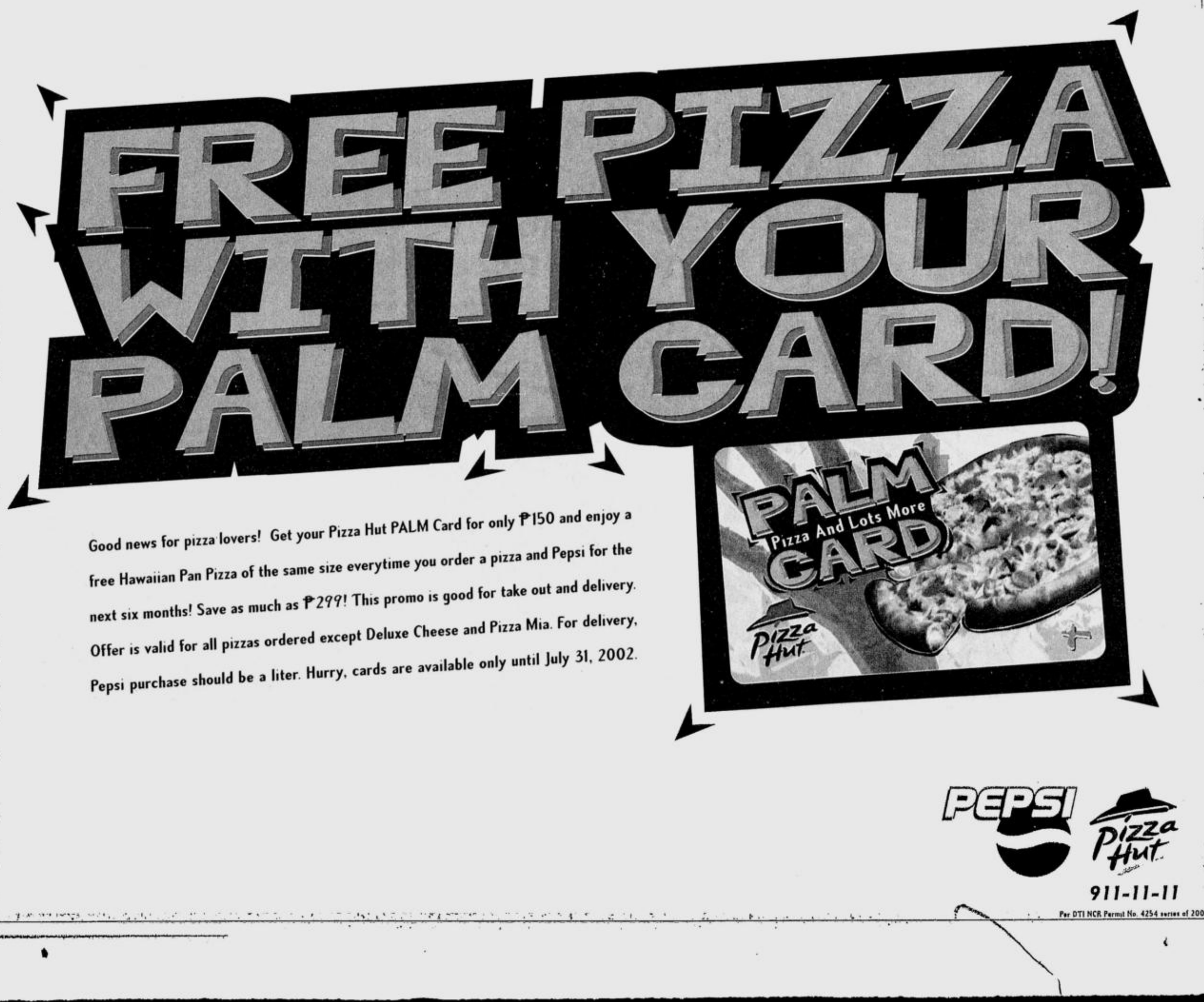
The 10th song, "Alam Mo Ba?," is upbeat and fast-paced. A person is challenged to evaluate what has been taken for granted and to look at things from a different viewpoint. The rhythm complements the lyrics' barrage of questions. Answering the questions takes the form of a declaration of love.

Positive

"You Make Me The Best (That I Can Be)" shows how the entry of a person into someone else's life can affect him so much. In this case, the effect is positive—bringing out all of his best traits. This song has little that's new to offer listeners in terms of ideas. However, the singer's vocal talent imbues the otherwise ordinary song with life. A harmonica adds a nice touch to the accompaniment and saves it from being predictable.

"A Little Love Goes A Long Way" is about love as investment. Put a little something in, and reap huge rewards. There is risk involved, of course, but the song does not elborate too much on this. It equates love with learning the musical scale or the alphabet. A very optimistic song, it is perfectly complemented by its fast-paced, regular beat.

All of the songs in the album speak of love and everything that accompanies it. The idea is that there may be heartache, but there can also be fulfillment. Love is shown as the proverbial double-edged sword, and as an emotion with countless nuances that manifest themselves in various ways.



Robert Redford unveils documentary fund, TV channel

BY BOB TOURTELLOTTE

PARK CITY—Robert Redford unveiled a new fund for documentaries on Sunday, fueled by $4.6 million from a group backed by investor George Soros, and a new cable network devoted to nonfiction film.

Commitment

"That allows us to kind of put teeth in a commitment that's been long-standing about trying to promote documentaries," Redford said at a news conference in the small ski town east of Salt Lake City where the Sundance Film Festival is held.

Sundance is the United States' top festival for independent films and is backed by Redford's Sundance Institute, which he founded 20 years ago. The institute helps support documentary filmmakers, and the festival each year features 16 nonfiction films in competition.

Under the plan, the Soros Documentary Fund, which is operated by his New York-based Open Society Institute, will transfer money to the Sundance Institute to establish the Sundance International Documentary Fund.

50 projects

Diane Weyermann, director of Sundance's international filmmaking program, said the $4.6 million will be granted over four years.

She said the fund could support up to 50 projects a year.

In addition, the Sundance cable channel, founded by Redford in 1996 to show independent films, will launch a sister network devoted to documentaries later this year.

REDFORD. Greater support and exposure for nonfiction movies.

Redford has produced many non-fiction films, narrated even more and made a few, including ones for Yosemite National Park in California and for Native American causes.

"Obviously, I have a keen interest in documentaries and their importance," he said. "But the only place we could service the documentarians was at the festival."

The Sundance Festival traditionally gives great exposure to documentaries, but there have been few broader outlets.

Cable channels

That has changed slightly in recent years, with cable channels like HBO supporting and broadcasting documentaries.

Still, movie theaters rarely book them, despite the box-office success of past Sundance favorites like "Hoop Dreams."

"There's kind of an odd, weird, paradox that exists," Redford said. "Nobody wants to fund them. Nobody wants to show them, but almost all the people who don't want to fund or show will tell documentarians, 'You've got to make them. It's so important this film get made. It's a noble idea.'"

"Well, nobility doesn't have a huge place in an industry that's just about business," he added. *Reuters*

Travolta caught in a 'Domestic Disturbance'

JOHN Travolta topbills "Domestic Disturbance," a suspense thriller directed by Harold Becker ("Mercury Rising").

Custody

In his latest film, Travolta plays Frank Morrison, a divorced man who shares custody of his son with his ex-wife, Susan. But no matter how Frank and Susan try to be good parents, their son Danny seems to always find himself in trouble and things are not getting any better.

Rebellious and defiant, Danny has difficulty accepting the changes that are about to happen in his life. First, his mom finds a new husband, a philanthropist named Rick Barnes.

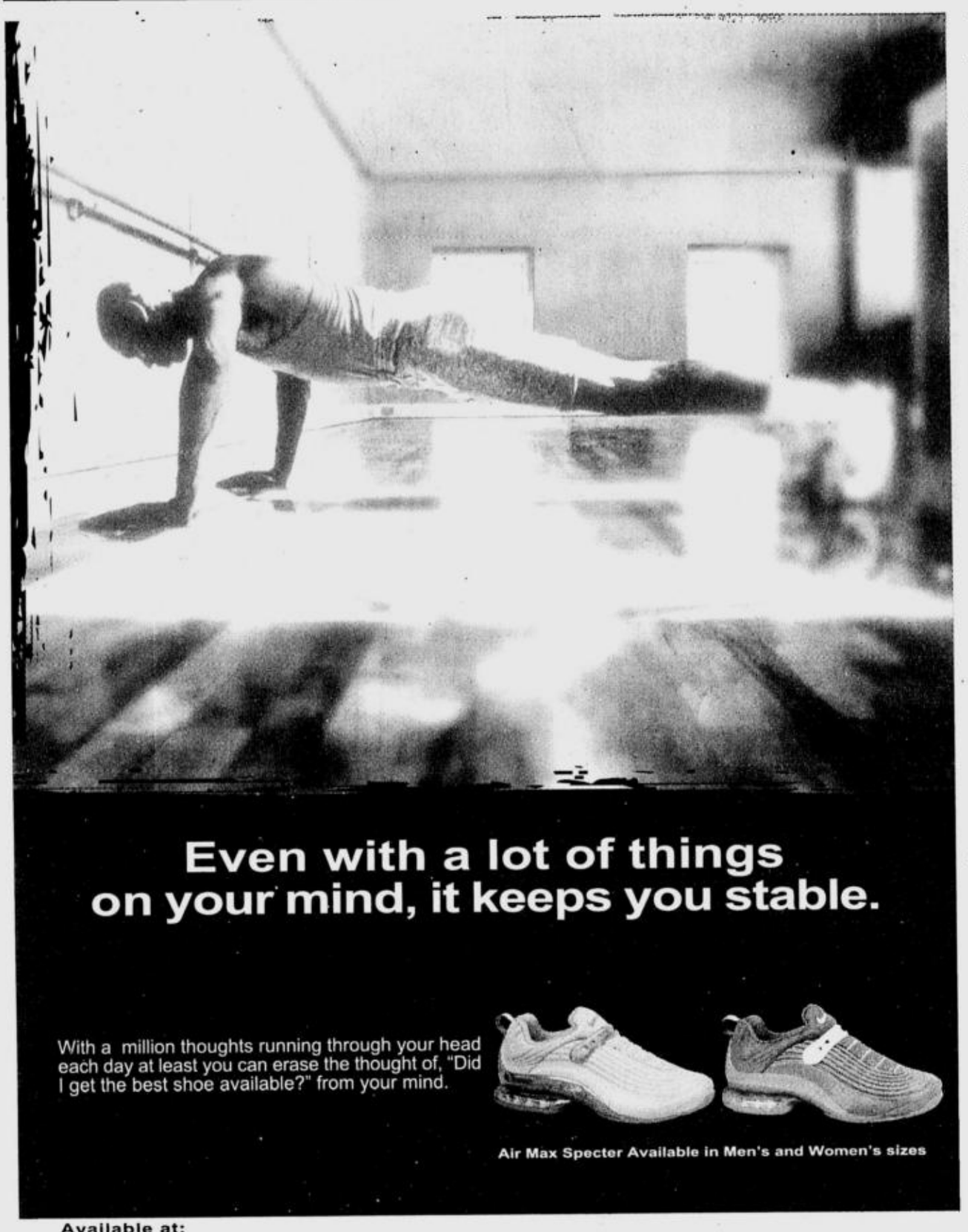
Then, soon after the marriage, Susan finds out she is pregnant, which upsets Danny tremendously. Danny starts telling Frank of Rick's disturbing behavior, and about a murder which Rick supposedly committed.

Frank is torn between believing his son, whose reputation for telling the truth has always been spotty, and considering the possibility that his family may indeed be living with a cold-blooded killer.

Less than perfect

Director Harold Becker points out, "Every parent wants to believe the best about his child even when the child is obviously less than perfect. John (Travolta) brings tremendous humanity to his role and has great chemistry with children without sacrificing a certain edginess that bring suspense stories to life. He makes Frank Morrison a compelling central figure in this movie."

Travolta is supported by Vince Vaughn playing the calculating charming Rick Barnes, whose shady past catches up on him much too soon.



SaturdaySPECIAL

Focus on the heartthrobs of 'Harry Potter' and 'Lord of the Rings'

BLOOM. Portrays blond archer in first "Lord of the Rings" film.

Young actors get noticed in popular fantasy-adventure films

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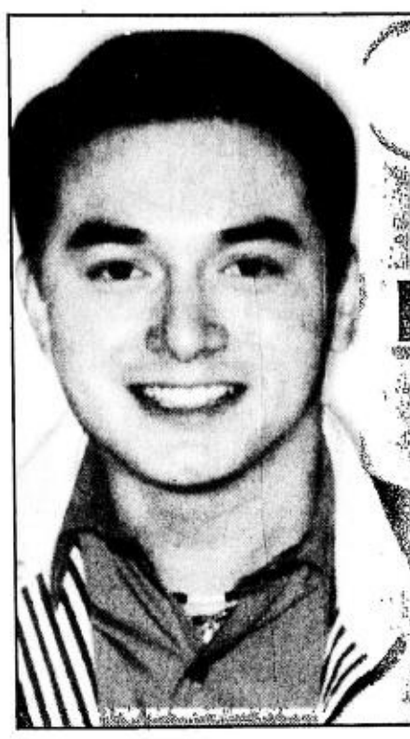

This Week at SM Supermalls
DOMINIC OCHOA
JAN. 20 • 4pm
ENTERTAINMENT PLAZA, 5/F
SM MANILA

STARTING this issue, we are resuming this special section for readers who have questions about anything under the entertainment sun—movies, television, recording, concerts, theater, and trivia about your favorite celebrities, past or present, local or foreign.

You can write us at: Phil. Daily Inquirer, Saturday Special section, Show Biz Q & A, Chino Roces ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo sts., Makati City. Our *buena mano* questions:

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Rito P. Asilo

"Please, please feature two of my favorite exciting newcomers: the actor who played Quidditch Captain Oliver Wood in 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone' and the blond archer, Legolas Greenleaf, in 'Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring.' What other movies have they appeared in?"—*Eleanor May Lu, Barangay Barangka, Mandaluyong City.*

"Harry Potter's" Oliver Wood was portrayed by 18-year-old Scottish actor, Sean Biggerstaff, while Froddo Baggins' blond archer, Legolas Greenleaf, was brought to life by 25-year-old English actor, Orlando Bloom. Both actors came from the theater.

Sean started acting at an early age. He auditioned for "Macbeth" at age 10 and worked for the Royal Shakespeare Company until he was spotted by actor/director Alan Rickman, Potter's Potions master, Snape, while touring "Macbeth" in Scotland. Rickman then hired him for the Emma Thompson-starrer, "The Winter Guest," which Rickman directed. He was part of the short-lived mini-series, "The Crow Road."

Single

Sean knows how to charm people, even in interviews. When a teen magazine asked what he wanted its readers to know about him, he said in jest, "That I'm devilishly good-looking and single!"

Bloom, on the other hand, moved from Canterbury to London to work fulltime in theater. His body of work includes "Twelfth Night," "Trojan Women" and "The Seagull." He stole scenes from Stephen Fry and Jude Law as a "rent boy" in his film debut, "Wilde" (1997). He is also in Ridley Scott's Somalian war drama, "Black Hawk Down," with Josh Hartnett and Ewan McGregor. The film's trailer is already being run in Manila theaters.

Also watch out for him in "Deed Poll" and "Lullaby of Clubland Finney," a movie he starred in with close friend, German actor Andre Schneider and actress Joanne Morley, who left him for Schneider. Strangely, they remain friends. So, girls, "Legolas" is on the rebound!

"I am a big fan of the pop group, 'N Sync, particularly Justin Timberlake and JC Chasez. I'd love to see them act in movies. Is there a chance of that happening soon?" —*Jennifer Padilla, San Antonio Village, Makati City.*

Two members

Looks like you're in luck. Singers have been known to try their hand at acting, at one time or another. If you love 'N Sync, then go catch "On

FOCUS/ p.E2

BIGGERSTAFF. Played Oliver Wood in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0057. Series of 2002.

2001 FDFPI screenwriting workshoppers graduate

FRONT, from left Jojie Tiongco, Jojie Mayshle, Jun Alivanera, Ben Paita, Mimi Gregorio, Presto Suyat, Edgar Esmeria, Albert Almendralejo; seated, Dr. Lynn S. Pareja, Nestor O. Jardin, Raquel Villavicencio, Laurice Guillen, Dr. Bienvenido L. Lumbera, Doy del Mundo, NUT; back row, Beth Urgel, Jennie Usi, Precy Dizon, Lorna Burnette, Jiki Lim, Eddie Romero, Kristhine Mercado, Cherry Sagge, Jo Luna, Booboo Atayde, Mona Teves, Gemma Subiate, Ra Flores, Marie delos Reyes and Louie Rosales.

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

LAST month, the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines graduated its latest batch of screenwriting workshoppers, 25 young writers who survived the rigorous course and received their certificates after each completing a full-length screenplay, the course's basic requirement for graduation.

Heartened

The 2001 workshop graduates were greatly heartened by the presence of the FDFPI's new chairman, Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera, and president, acclaimed filmmaker Laurice Guillen, along with industry stalwarts Eddie Romero, Raquel Villavicencio, Doy del Mundo and Dr. Lynn Pareja, all of whom spoke during the seminar-workshop, and CCP president Nestor Jardin.

In her remarks, Guillen stressed that rigorous training of screenwriters is a must because "good films begin with good ideas." That's why the foundation is particularly keen on education, and is committed to holding its screenwriting workshop *and* nationwide screenwriting competition annually.

More workshops

The young writers were elated when Guillen said the foundation was going to hold more workshops in various film crafts and disciplines this year, including an advanced screenwriting workshop, a screenwriting workshop outside of Metro Manila, and a seminar-workshop for producers.

The foundation is also looking for ways to fund or partially subsidize the production of prizewinning scripts or other outstanding screenplays by workshoppers, Guillen revealed.

For his part, Dr. Lumbera said he made sure he was present at the graduation because he was a writer himself and placed great importance on film scripting, since he regarded the cinema as a prime cultural endeavor that effected a creative interaction between artists and the rest of the populace.

Filipino values

He informed the graduates that the foundation's officers had come up with a new mission and vision statement that stressed a more dynamic use of film to vivify positive Filipino values for personal and national expression and development.

Workshop observers regard the 2001 batch of graduates as a particularly good mix of various persuasions, ideologies and objectives. Some of them are very young, so they have come up with scripts that dramatize the conflicts and aspirations of the youth, who make up the majority of our film audience today. On the other hand, there are mature graduates whose screenplays benefit greatly from their store of experience.

Diverse backgrounds

The workshoppers' diverse backgrounds are also indicative of the great variety of stories and characters they have come up with. One graduate is an advertising executive, another works in a *sabungan*, a third is a producer, a fourth is a taxi driver, and others are in nursing, media, social work and activism.

It is hoped that, with the training they have received from the foundation, they can come up with TV-film scripts that can help expand the scope of stories told on the big and small screens, to appeal to different kinds of audiences.

The 2001 screenwriting workshop graduates know that breaking into the TV-film field is tough, but they are encouraged by the success attained by previous batches of graduates, who are now working regularly as TV scriptwriters and even headwriters, or whose movie scripts have already been produced by the country's leading film companies and innovative independent production outfits.

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Focus on . . .

(From page E1)

the Line," now showing in Manila, and starring two members of the group, Lance Bass and Joey Fatone. Chris Kirkpatrick and Justin Timberlake, who is Britney Spears' current flame, appears in an uncredited cameo as a gay make-up artist!

Justin starred more than a year ago in a TV teen flick called "Model Behavior." (Yes, we even found a copy in a Video City outlet.) He will be seen next in "Baby Geniuses 2: Super Babies," as himself.

While the shy JC has not yet acted in a movie, this will soon change because he will appear briefly, with the rest of 'N Sync, in George Lucas' "Star Wars, Ep. 2: Attack of the Clones," which will open in May.

No dialogue

A Lucasfilm representative Lynn Hale confirmed this but reiterated that the boys will have "no dialogue and won't even be credited as extras." Apparently, Lucas' two adopted daughters are huge fans of the pop quintet. Uh-oh, Jar Jar Binks, your days are numbered!

From Rona de Lim of Pasolo, Valenzuela City: **"What are Julia Roberts' next movies? Was "Erin Brockovich" her first Oscar award? Whom is she currently dating?"**

Julia's next movie, Steven Soderbergh's "Ocean's Eleven," with fellow superstars, Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Matt Damon and Andy Garcia, will open in Manila later this month.

If you wonder how Julia was convinced to accept an 'ensemble' movie and a large pay cut, here's the story: Clooney, the movie's producer, charmed his way to Julia's heart by sending her a script with a $20 bill attached to a note that read, "I hear you're making 20 a film now." We all know that Roberts gets $20 *million* per picture. Plus, of course, there's Soderbergh, who directed her in "Brockovich."

She will appear in another Soderbergh movie, "Full Frontal (The Art of Negotiating A Turn)," with David Duchovny, and also in Clooney's directorial debut, "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind," with Clooney and Drew Barrymore.

Golden Globes

Yes, her Best Actress Award for "Brockovich" was her first Oscar win, though she had also been nominated for "Pretty Woman" and "Steel Magnolias" (in the supporting actress category). Interestingly, Julia won Golden Globes for all three films.

It is not a surprise if Julia's dating calendar has always been busy. In the past, she dated Liam Neeson, Dylan McDermott, Kiefer Sutherland, Daniel Day Lewis, Matthew Perry, Jason Patric, Lyle Lovett (with whom she was married for less than two years!) and Benjamin Bratt. She currently dates cinematographer Daniel Moder.

Two of the offers she turned down were "Shakespeare in Love" and "Basic Instinct," films which made big stars out of Gwyneth Paltrow and Sharon Stone.

From Brando Ortega of Barangay Sta. Cruz, Pasig City: **"Did Cogie Domingo really start with GMA? He was good in 'Death Row.' Has he won any acting awards? What is his next movie?"**

Before GMA nurtured the promising actor's career, Cogie Domingo was rejected three times by the ABS-CBN Talent Center. He eventually landed in its teen show, "Cyberkada."

Cogie was an Urian and Star Awards Best Actor nominee for "Yakapin Mo Ang Umaga." He was nominated for Best Actor at the Metro Manila Filmfest and earned an Urian citation for his performance in "Death Row."

After the commercial and critical failure of "Cool Dudes," he will be paired with Judy Ann Santos and KC Montero in "Asa Ka Pa," which has a February playdate.

New 'Beauty and the Beast' at IMAX

By Rica Arevalo

TORONTO, Canada—Braving the cold winter night on New Year's Day, I went to see the first screening of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast: The Large Format Cinema Special Edition" in Paramount Toronto, Famous Players Theatre. Disney is re-releasing the movie on its 10th anniversary. It was first screened in 1991.

The 2002 version has added fresh elements that the original lacked: six minutes of new scenes with Belle reading "Romeo and Juliet" to the Beast, a new song entitled "Human Again" and a print that has been specifically made for the giant screen IMAX theaters.

Largest film frame

IMAX is a made-up word for "maximum image." It offers the largest film frame in motion picture history, 10 times larger than the standard 35mm.

Entering the theater, I was astonished to see a four-story screen in front of me. After recovering from my initial amazement, a laser light show was presented to the awe-struck audience, reminding us why "Beauty and the Beast" became the first and only animated film ever to be nominated for the Best Picture Academy Award, eventually garnering Oscars for Best Score and Best Original Song.

The characters of Belle, Beast, Gaston, and the household talking objects, Lumiere (candlestick), Cogsworth (clock), Ms Potts and Chip, were drawn in laser light, accompanied by the familiar musical score for the introduction.

When the screening began, everyone was speechless and dazed. We were hooked right away even before the narration began. We became part of the film.

Thunder

The experience takes you to a different motion picture dimension. When you hear thunder, the base of your seat absorbs the impact of the crash. When Belle sings, you hear a voice so real and engaging. When the Beast roars, you feel his power and it naturally makes you tense.

The IMAX version puts you *in* the movie because of its mammoth size and superb sound. You find yourself seeing and hearing it all. The screen is so huge that you can see all the elements and study each frame.

Background: the "Human Again" song, by the late Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, was originally in the movie but was scrapped before it even went into production. It was later revived in the Broadway musical of "Beauty and the Beast." It clicked so well with the audience and became so popular that Disney decided to record the song.

THE 2002 version of the Disney picture has added fresh elements that the original lacked.

The film animators found a way to include the festive dance and song number in which the household characters dream of what they'll do when they go back to their original human forms.

Improved film stock

The film's original tracks have been remixed and the colors of the film appear more brilliant and lustrous because of the improved film stock used. The people behind the production enhanced the film scene by scene, improved special effects and refined the characters for them to shine brightly on the screen. Never before has "Beauty and the Beast" appeared as grand as now. The images are not grainy blow-ups but crystal-clear, detailed images.

The story is the same century-old tale about a handsome prince cursed to remain a beast until he finds someone who truly loves him despite his ugly appearance. The moral of the story: Beauty is found within.

Belle is the most beautiful girl in town. Gaston is handsome but scheming, and thinks Belle will marry him. With a modern outlook on life and love for books, Belle is found odd by people. Her father Maurice is considered a loon because of his inventions.

One fateful day, Maurice disappears in the forest and becomes a prisoner of the Beast. Belle searches for her father until she lands in a dark, creepy castle. There she meets some magical talking household objects.

The Beast is thrilled but at the same time nervous of Belle's arrival. He hopes that she will break the spell but is scared about her reaction to his hideous appearance.

Highlights

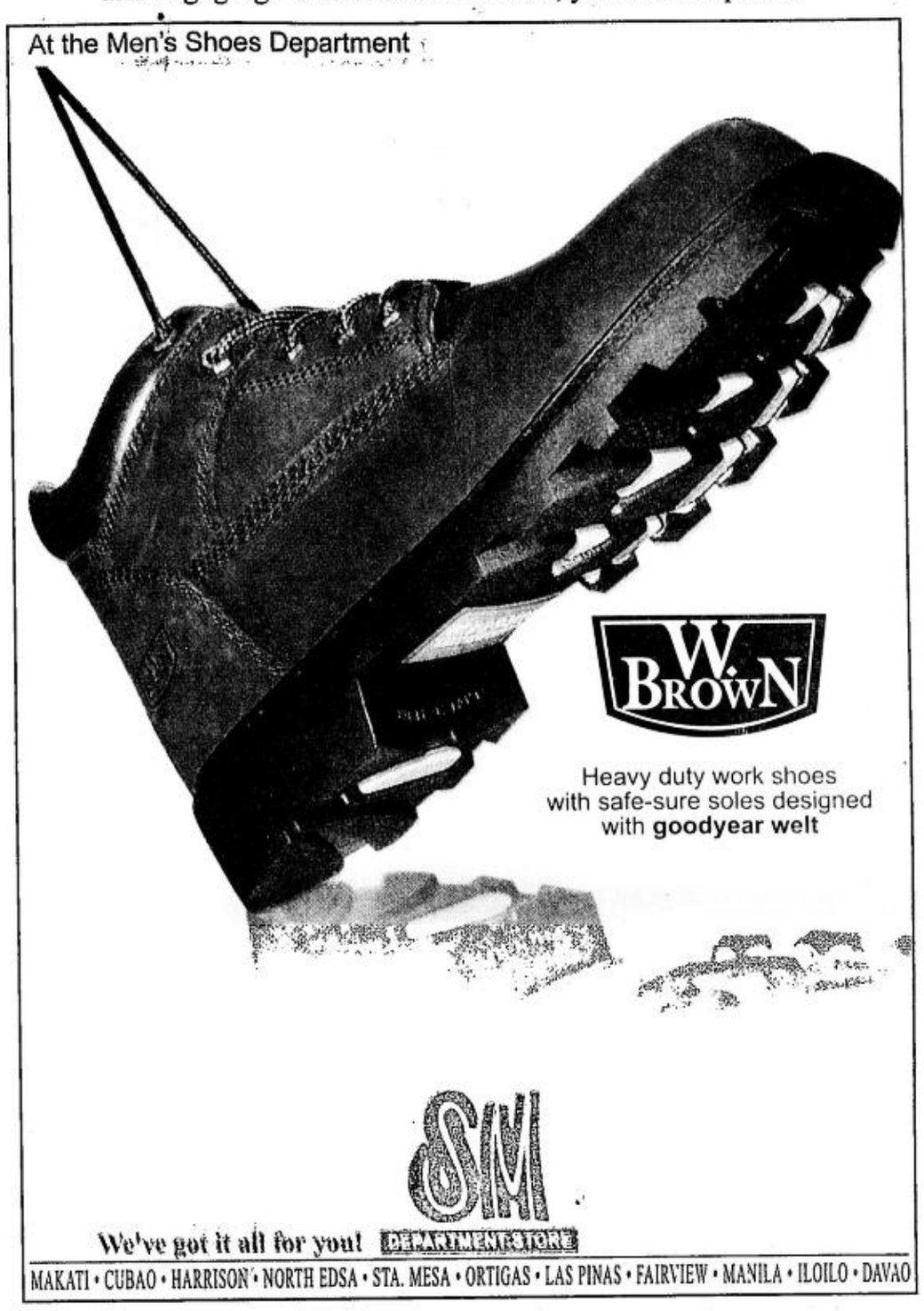
The choreographed production numbers and music are the highlights of this memorable film. Who can forget the "Belle" song at the start, the "Gaston" villain theme, the "Be Our Guest" number with dancing and singing utensils, the lively "Something There" and the sweet ballad, "Beauty and the Beast"? It has been 10 years since I last heard the songs but amazingly I could still remember the lyrics and tunes.

Since Jan. 1, 2002, "Beauty and the Beast" has been screened in 100 IMAX theaters worldwide—a record number for any movie in an IMAX setting. Another Disney movie, "Fantasia 2000" was previously shown in 75 theaters last year.

After 10 years, "Beauty and the Beast" is a good reminder as to why it is one of the best animated films of all time. At the end of the screening, each one of us received a red rose with a caption, "Thank you for being our guest."

If only we had an IMAX theater in the Philippines!

When you hear thunder, the base of your seat absorbs the impact of the crash. When Belle sings, you hear a voice so real and engaging. When the Beast roars, you feel his power



David Pomeranz prefers love songs with a positive note

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

SINGER-SONGWRITER David Pomeranz has been in and out of the Philippines close to 20 times. More than work (he's been recording several albums here for MCA Universal Music and promoting them on television and the malls), it's the people who keep him coming back.

Traffic

David feels very much at home in spite of all the inconveniences and hazards of living here. "Of course I mind the traffic. I hate traffic!" David quips. "But I'm from New York City, so I'm used to traffic. But this is a new, unique kind of traffic—a new universe of traffic!"

He says that he is not frightened by the peace and order situation in the country. In fact, he says that he was in Zamboanga last year, just before the kidnappings took place.

"We had a lot of security, and I wasn't totally sure why, and then we were informed of what was starting to happen there." Despite this close brush with danger, David says he would like to return to Zamboanga. "I thought it was a beautiful place—physically beautiful, nice people there!"

Filipino musicians

David enjoys working with Filipinos. He shares that two of his albums were all done here in the Philippines with Filipino musicians and singers. His latest album, "On This Day," was started here but had to be completed in America because his wife had given birth to their first baby and he immediately left to see his child.

He shares that his son, Nicholas, is now eight months old. He and his wife, Kelly, had long been waiting to have a child, having been married for 12 years.

"(Nicholas is) my very first child. We're so happy. I can't wait to get back home and see him," gushes the proud father. David says that he has already written a song for his son, a song which will be sung at the christening ceremony.

Since David is both singer and songwriter, many probably think that he wrote his most famous songs, "Got to Believe in Magic" and "King and Queen of Hearts." Actually, they were written by Steven Gyer and Charles Fox. (Fox also wrote the song "Killing Me Softly.")

The songwriter says that he is not closed to singing other people's songs, as he did with these tunes that made him very popular here in the Philippines. "There are times I'll hear a great song and go, 'Hey, I want to sing that!' But I have to agree with what the song says. I'm not gonna sing some stupid song!" he explains.

POMERANZ. "A song is mushy when it's a cliche."

David says he likes to sing about the positive side of love. Although he has written about breaking up, he says these songs are in the minority. Most of his tunes are positive, and he disagrees that it is the sad songs that make the bigger hits.

"I think if you look at it, some of the biggest, popular songs of all time are positive songs, filled with hope. But I also think there's a market for the sad ones, because there's a lot of unhappiness in the world, and people relate to sadness, to loss. But I think that if you look at the love songs, those that are loved by more people, I think you might find that they have that hope factor."

Blues oriented

David admits that at the start of his career, he did not have this positive outlook. "I was a little more blues-oriented, more of an unhappy person, I think." But when he got older, his lifestyle improved and he started to understand more about life. He says he started to write more upbeat songs and finally realized that no matter what kind of song he wrote, it would have to make an impact on listeners. "Otherwise, why even take the time?" asks the singer. "It's *got* to make some kind of difference!"

David also realized that his songs didn't have to be happy. "I guess what I'm trying to say is I don't mind, even today, putting some pathos or some sadness into something—if the purpose of it is, in time we'll discover the truth, in time we'll grow, but this is just a phase we're going through. I always like to make sure that the song is going to uplift a person and it doesn't have to be all cheery and sweet and mushy and nice," he discloses.

Around 80 percent of David's songs is about love, but he proudly states that none of them are mushy. "A song is mushy when it's a cliché, when it's been said before. I think the way to get a song to not be mushy is to make it specific," David clarifies.

He gives as an example of his song, "On This Day," which is actually a wedding song. "I could have said, let's write a wedding song. Think of all the typical stuff, the flowers... 'Your love means so much to me my darling, to the destiny we have been made, and we're going to the future' .....aaargh! *That's* mushy. But we talk about ... 'Not so long ago, this earth was just a field, a cold and lonely place without you, but now everything's alive, everything's revealed, and the story of my life is all about you.' It's not a cliché, so it moves people because it's specific, because it's a fresh idea."

Letter-writing

All in all, David has written some 400 songs in his lifetime. He says that sometimes the tune comes to him first; other times, the lyrics are the first to present themselves. Either way, David likens songwriting to writing a letter:

"You're really moved. You find ways of saying it. You wouldn't say, 'Dear Joan, I really miss you. You are great.' You know? You'd look at your experience and ask, what is this like? 'The skies are dark without you.' You just find a nice way to see it."

However, he does admit that there are days when it seems his muse has gone on vacation. But has found that in the end, inspiration always finds its way home. "If you're not inspired, if you stick with it long enough, somewhere along the line, you crack it. You may not feel like it, maybe you have to go the movies, maybe you have to go to sleep and get up in the morning. But if you just stay with it, there is inspiration to be had—If you just hang in there!"

Moviegoers' top choices in 2001 MMFF

BY ANDY BAIS

THE RECENTLY concluded Metro Manila Film Festival fielded seven official entries. Which ones did viewers like best of all, and why? Here are some candid evaluations from the people who matter most, the moviegoers themselves:

Film, TV and stage actress and talent manager Connie Chua watched three entries: "I watched "Bagong Buwan," *kasi nandoon ang alaga kong si* Nonie Buencamino; "Bahay ni Lola," because of the kids and "Hubog," to see if valid *ba ang pagkapili ni* Assunta de Rossi as Best Actress.

Authentic

"I liked "Bagong Buwan," '*di man* that perfect artistically *sa aspeto ng akting ng ibang* actors, authentic *naman ang* choice of locations *at* props. *Pero* the best was the film's very strong, very effective mission not only here for our country but for the whole world: *walang awayan kung alisin ang* pride *at pairalin ang respeto sa isa't isa.*

"Hindi ko nadama sa film *na ito ang pagdidikta kung sino ang makapangyarihan o kung saan papanig ang kapwa* Pilipino, *kay* Allah *ba ng mga Muslim o sa Panginoon ba ng mga Kristiyano.*

"May magandang eksena akong hindi makalimutan na sapat na na magisip ang audience *nang mag-*merge *ang mga Kristiyano na ginampanan ni* Jhong Hilario *at ni* Jiro Manio *sa mga Muslim. Kung papaano mananampalataya sina* Jhong *at* Jiro in a Christian way *at ang* Muslim in Allah's way. *Sabi nga ni* Ronnie Lazaro, *'Akapin na natin ang kapayapaan, huwag pakawalan.'"*

Stage actress and singer Ana Feleo watched three entries: "Yamashita," "Bagong Buwan" and "Tatarin":

"I liked "Bagong Buwan" because of the direction, cinematography and story, and *klaro ang* values *na pinapakita nito.* The movie inspires you to pray. It is full of heart."

Oliver Oliveros, communication practitioner, was able to watch only one, "Hubog":

Travails

"I find the juxtapositions of Edsa Dos and Edsa Tres quite *pilit* to the travails in life of the characters played by Assunta and Alessandra de Rossi.

"BAGONG BUWAN." Full of heart.

All throughout the film, I did not see the connection why 'Hubog' was the film's title. Lamangan's 'Deathrow' was better."

Jannet Soliman, Senate Legislative Staff:

"*Sa totoo lang,* 'Bahay ni Lola' *lang ang napanood ko* because of the children. *Pero hindi siya maganda.* Based on my observation, 'Bagong Buwan' *ang may pinakamahabang pila* and mixed *ang* crowd. *Sabi ng pinsan ko na nakapanood, maganda daw at tipong talagang pag-uwi mo, mag-iisip ka at talagang may aral kang makukuha.*"

Winona Bishop, foreign student was able to watch three, namely; "Bagong Buwan," "Yamashita" and "Hubog":

"'Bagong Buwan' was well-directed but not as good as compared to Diaz-Abaya's other films. But it has a relevant story and also successfully conveyed the message that everybody is a victim of war and that war is not the solution.

'Yamashita' was a fine movie but it has an ordinary story and a badly-written ending. Assunta de Rossi deserved her best actress trophy in 'Hubog.'"

Sandra Manuel, Neda Region 7 Division Chief, watched only one movie, "Hubog":

"I rarely watch Tagalog movies, but 'Hubog' exceeded my expectations. Very good acting, engrossing storyline and excellent direction. Movies like this augur well for the future of Philippine cinema."

Scripwriter and occasional stage actor Ray Manalo watched two entries, "Bagong Buwan" and "Yamashita":

Important message

"I liked 'Bagong Buwan' because of its very timely and important message to every Filipino: War is not for third-world countries like the Philippines. '*Di na nga natin alam kung papaano tayo aahon sa kahirapan, tapos mag-gigiyera pa.*

"*Sana marami pang ganitong* films *ang magawa.* It not only touched our hearts but our souls as well. After viewing the film, I informed all my relatives and friends about the good intention of the director. And I am glad *na* it also did well at the box office."

Mitch Duran, chief Labor and Employment Officer of DOLE, watched five entries:

"I watched 'Tatarin' first because I wanted to see its cinematic treatment as compared to the stage version which I saw while still a student in Dumaguete City.

Tikoy Aguiluz' 'Tatarin' was neither here nor there. It was not faithful to the original material. If Aguiluz was exercising his artistic license, then what we did to Echegaray was an injustice. It is Frankenstein at its best.

"'Bahay ni Lola's' storyline is as irritating as the smoke from the fog machine. No wonder Gloria Romero had to turn upside down.

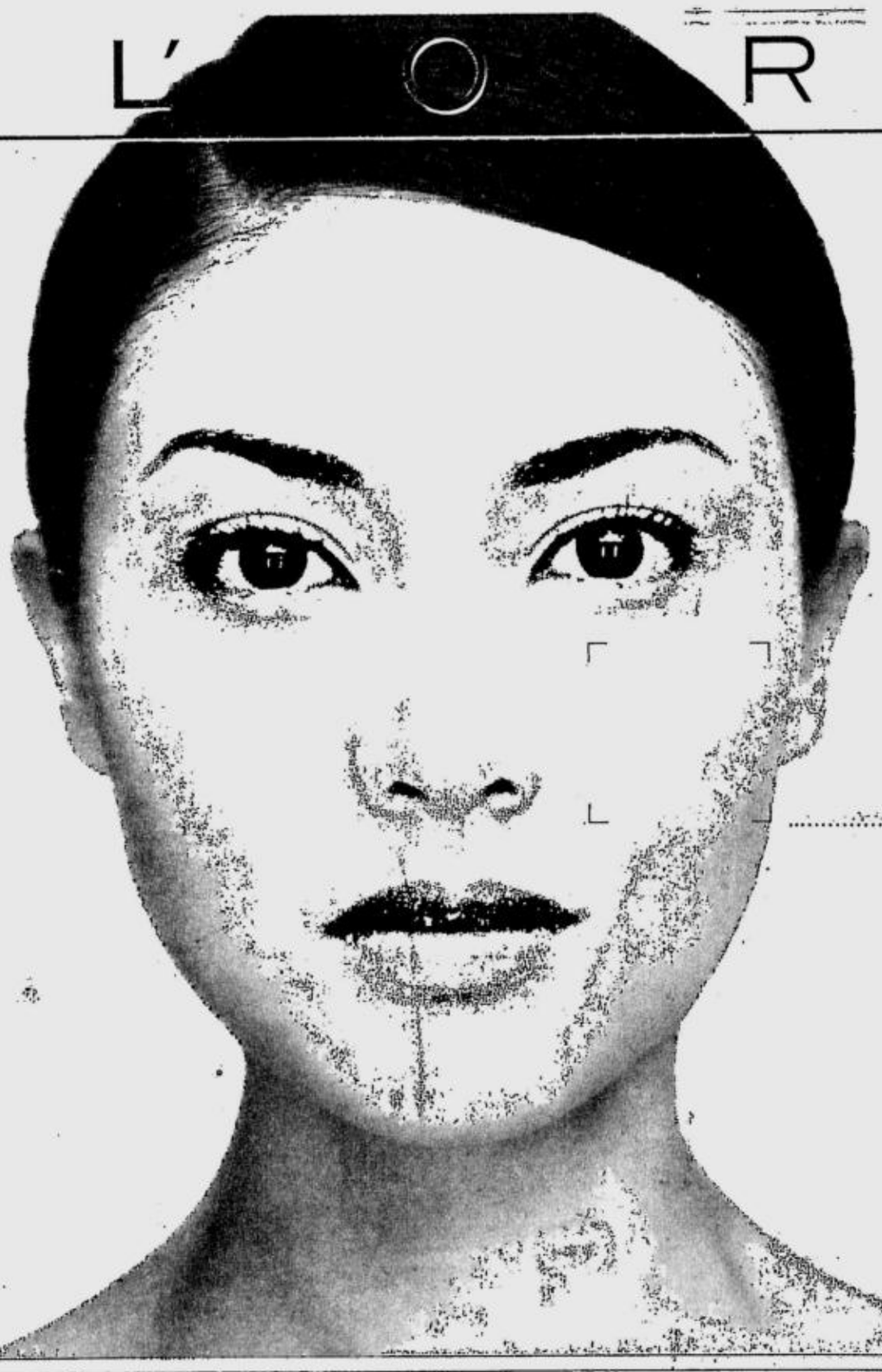
Surprise

"'Yamashita' was a surprise because, from the trailer, I thought it was a cheap copy of 'Pearl Harbor'—it *was* a copy, but a little improvement of a copy. There were many outstanding features—make-up, lighting, cinematography, etc. But if we take its totality, I think, to get its merit as a movie, you have to be a treasure hunter.

"'Bagong Buwan' attempts to be a documentary by presenting the way of life in Mindanao. But it tends to be preachy and the filmmaker's convictions show in the filmmaking, making moviegoers uncomfortable. I don't like movies which make me uncomfortable. Also, all the actors were trying hard to act.

"'Hubog' is raw, honest and it has credible acting. Assunta and Alessandra deserve their awards. From all of the movies I saw in the festival, I think this is the best."

L'ORÉAL PARIS



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Two superlative performances in 'A Beautiful Mind'

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

THIS early, Ron Howard's "A Beautiful Mind" is generating unusual interest among viewers and film awards jurors. Its male lead, Russell Crowe, has become a major box-office attraction, thanks to his portrayal of the Roman general-turned-gladiator Maximus in Ridley Scott's blockbuster, "Gladiator."

Fame and fortune

But Crowe hasn't let his fame and fortune go to his head, and still accepts roles in intimate, low-budget movies like "A Beautiful Mind," where he portrays the mentally-troubled mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr.

Nevertheless, Crowe's presence in this film is sure to boost its box-office fortunes, while helping it get a nod or two from award-giving bodies. In fact, it's already being cited as a frontrunner in the 2001 Golden Globe Awards which will be handed out on Jan. 20. It has also figured in the awards competitions of the American Film Institute and the US National Society of Film Critics.

Crowe's role in "A Beautiful Mind" is particularly impressive because the character he plays is a math genius who is schizophrenic. Facing challenges that have defeated many others, Nash and his wife Alicia eventually triumphed over his tragedy, and he went on to receive the Nobel Prize in 1994.

Human face

Crowe gets many offers to act in big productions, but he was drawn to the relatively small movie because he wanted "to help put a human face on schizophrenia." People with the disease are shunned or feared by others, but Crowe says he wanted to show "that their lives are still normal, in the sense that they still fall in love, have babies and want to achieve things."

To research Nash's complicated character, Crowe watched videotapes of the mathematician and read Nash's writings and Sylvia Nasar's biography on him. He also studied documentaries on schizophrenics, and talked at length with Nash himself.

For her part, Jennifer Connelly portrays Alicia, Nash's wife, with such thespic strength and brilliance that she has already won an award for it—Best Supporting Actress, from the American Film Institute.

Connelly may not be as big a star as Crowe, but movie industry observers believe that "A Beautiful Mind" could be her ticket to the bigtime. But Connelly is hardly an overnight discovery. In fact, she was only 11 when she made her film debut in Sergio Leone's gangster epic, "Once Upon A Time In America."

Haunting portrayal

In 200, she was seen in three provocative dramatic films. She received an Independent Spirit nomination for her haunting portrayal of a drug addict in "Requiem for A Dream." She played Jackson Pollock's lover opposite Ed Harris in "Pollock," and she was an idealistic activist in "Waking the Dead."

Other films where Connelly displayed her acting chops were "Inventing the Abbotts," "Mulholland Falls," "Higher Learning," "Of Love and Shadow" and "The Rocketeer."

Director Ron Howard tapped Connelly to play Alicia in "A Beautiful Mind" because he was impressed with her thespic range, which he felt was needed to do justice to Alicia's complex character.

He observes, "John Nash's journey is dauntingly heroic, but so is Alicia's. She's very interesting—she's kind of the belle of the ball. Gorgeous, "intelligent, and very interested in John Nash.

"And what she bargains for is *not* what she gets. It winds up being an incredible challenge for her. Nash would never have survived without her. She's the heroine of this movie!"

JENNIFER Connelly plays Alicia, wife of mentally troubled mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr. (Russell Crowe).

RJ Rosales finds local show business tough but rewarding

BY GLORIA P. SICAM

TV talent RJ Rosales believes that everything happens for a reason. It isn't exactly fate... but the way his life is going, it seems that there is some mystical force out there that's mapping out his life and career.

Family

Born in the Philippines, RJ migrated to Australia with his family when he was only 11 years old. He's been singing since he was a kid ("Mostly parties and funerals," he laughs), but only took his singing seriously when he auditioned for "Miss Saigon" in Australia and got accepted.

(What was your role?, we asked him. With a straight face, RJ told us, "I played Tam, Kim's three-year old son in the musical." We all furrowed our eyebrows as we tried to calculate if this was possible, until we saw him laughing heartily.)

Get this—he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Applied Science in Mathematics. He thought he was going to be a teacher. But apparently, life had other plans for him.

When Action Theater was looking for someone to play one of the leads in their project, "Chang and Eng," someone from "Miss Saigon" recommended him. So impressed were they with his audition that they flew him from Australia to Singapore to do the play.

TV shows

He played one of the Siamese twins. He stayed in Singapore for quite a while—did several TV shows, stage plays and commercials. (His face was *on* a bus and all over the inside of a bus he was riding one day. No one recognized him until he called his friend and said, "My face is all over this bus! Now *that's* a different experience!").

Just when RJ thought he was all settled in Singapore, the scriptwriter of his life threw in a new twist. On one of his regular vacations in the Philippines, a friend of his recommended him for ABS-CBN's Centex show. They were looking for singers, and he was willing to lend his services. But the job he got was that of

ROSALES. Culture shock.

host, along with Pops Fernandez. The big bosses of ABS-CBN were watching that night, and so RJ was auditioning without his actually knowing it. Next thing he knew, he moved to a condo in Makati and he was co-hosting "ASAP," doing two sitcoms for ABS-CBN, and guesting in Pops' concerts. So, RJ starts yet another chapter in his life—trying out show biz in Manila.

He's been at it for five months now—how long does he plan to stay? "As long as it feels right," says RJ, although he confesses the first few months were tough. "I got pretty homesick... I've visited Singapore twice already since I got here! But I'm getting used to it."

Concept of time

He also admits to going through some kind of culture shock. "Not Philippine culture, but the show biz culture." He is finding out how tough and competitive show biz is, but also just how satisfying and rewarding it can be, when you work hard.

Another thing he had to get used to was the different concept of time here—"I don't like being late, I don't like people waiting for me..."—His start was shaky, he says, but now he's pretty much adjusted to local show biz culture. And, as an extra comfort and security for him, he convinced his sister to become his personal assistant. "It's good to have family around," RJ says. His immediate family lives in Australia.

Was the move to the Philippines on purpose, or was it just an accident? "The move was a calling, it was a push to get out of my comfort zone, which was Singapore." RJ explains that when you get too comfortable, your level of satisfaction does not grow.

His ultimate dream, he says, is to perform on Broadway. "But you take what God gives you, and keep in your heart what you want. Just never forget your dream. It's free to dream, isn't it?"

Who are his friends in show biz? RJ states, "Pops... Jolina...Anna Fegi..." Why is it that he's always being paired with Pops? "It's all been by chance..." Of course, someone asks if he'd consider dating Pops. "I think I would be very lucky if I was dating someone like Pops..." RJ says generously. But he shares, "I've never had a relationship with someone older. They've always been my age, or younger."

Hopeless romantic

Now that the topic of love and relationships had been opened, I asked if he'd give up his career for love. "I did that before, and it wasn't a good thing. But I was more naïve back then. I've always been in danger of concentrating on my love life because I'm a hopeless romantic. But when the right person comes along, I will be able to find the right balance. Right now, I'm married to my career."

It's a marriage that seems to be working very well. In February, RJ leaves for 20 days for Malaysia, to do "Chang and Eng" yet again. And in March, there's a possibility the musical will be staged here. On TV, RJ is a regular on "Attagirl!" and "Da Pilya and D'Pilot," and of course, still co-hosts "ASAP."

On the concert scene, he guests in the concert series of Pops Fernandez this month. Eventually, he would like to record an album and maybe, do movies?

How about more stage plays? "After a few more months of TV, probably. Stage plays require 100 percent of your time and energy. I want to be able to give that, like the way I give it to the things I do now."

RJ Rosales. Can't wait to see what card life deals him next!

'Black Hawk Down' is an unforgettable war movie

BY JILL SERJEANT

LOS ANGELES—The soldiers are mostly young, often scared, never "cool." There is no remittance, no pretty nurse waiting tearily at base. No swashbuckling hero arrives to save the day.

And the grim, chaotic firefight offers no easy answers.

Cartoon cutout

After months of Hollywood soul-searching about the post-Sept. 11 future of entertainment, in thunders a powerful war movie that defies Tinseltown notions of patriotism, makes Rambo look like a cartoon cutout, and redefines what it means to be a soldier.

Columbia Pictures' new action-thriller "Black Hawk Down" recreates in relentless, unsentimental detail the 15-hour battle of Oct. 3, 1993 that saw an elite group of US forces pinned down in the Somali capital of Mogadishu in the bloodiest struggle for survival involving American soldiers since the Vietnam War. Eighteen soldiers were killed.

It portrays close armed combat in a far-away country in all its bloody confusion and hits US movie theaters just as thousands of American Marines and special forces are locked in a ground operation in Afghanistan.

Jingoism

Had "Black Hawk Down," based on the book of the same title by US journalist Mark Bowden, been made after Sept. 11, it might have resorted to flag-waving jingoism, or been a vehicle for Schwarzenegger.

But the movie was competed last August, is ambiguous in its message, and has a largely unfamiliar cast of actors

LEAD actor Josh Hartnett spent weeks in military boot camps before shooting began.

whose faces and egos are barely discernible beneath their military crew cuts and grimy helmets.

Yet it is already being cited as a strong Oscar contender and is seen by some film critics as one of the most unforgettable movies about war.

"Hollywood in my lifetime has always fallen back on cliches about the military . . . (but) this is not a Rambo, shoot'em up, hop and chop adventure film," said retired Special Forces Col. Lee Van Arsdale, who took part in the 1993 Somalia mission and was one of several military advisors on the movie.

As Hollywood moguls last September lurched between alternately postponing and promoting shows that served up terror entertainment following the Sept. 11 attacks, the producers and studio heads behind "Black Hawk Down" swiftly decided to bring forward the movie's release date from its original March 2002 slot.

Director Ridley Scoot said it was not a question of capitalizing on the patriotic fervor sweeping the nation, but of the heightened relevance of what is essentially a universal story about combat and bravery.

Implications

"The implications of the film started to emerge both before, during, and of course afterward," said Scott. "I thought it was most relevant to bring it out now, when it is in people's minds, when it is at its strongest."

"I don't want to give the audience any answers," Scott said. "I want them to go away and think. 'This isn't a movie movie.' It's as near to the edge of a documentary as I could make it."

Both the book and the movie are based on in-depth accounts by the Ranger and Delta forces who took part in the 1993 battle of Mogadishu, and audio and video tapes recorded in the command center at the time.

In a feuding Third World capital ruled by rival warlords and stricken by famine, what was planned as a one-hour mission by the elite force of 100 to seize a handful of clan members ended with two Black Hawk helicopters being shot down, 18 American deaths, 73 wounded and hundreds of Somali corpses in the streets.

The actors, including lead player Josh Hartnett, spent several weeks in military boot camps before shooting began and also met with some of the soldiers they were to portray. For both actors and soldiers, it proved a surprising experience.

"I found myself overawed with a sense of responsibility to tell the story without showing off. Actors are all about showing off, but this time it was about getting ourselves out of the way and letting the story tell itself, " said Jason Isaacs, a British actor who plays Ranger Captain Mike Steele.

Totally committed

Arsdale said he was "half-way expecting something Hollywood—effete liberals and all that. But these guys were fantastic. They were totally committed to getting it right."

Getting it right, for the actors, meant stepping into the boots of soldiers whose motto, "leave no man behind," became a creed that transcended their individual fears.

"The movie is about heroism and bravery and the anatomy of battle, not the anatomy of personality which is the typical Hollywood fare. Ridley Scott said he wanted to make a movie about the foreground, not the background," said Tom Sizemore, who plays Lt. Col. Danny McKnight, the Ranger who went back into the fray repeatedly to try to save his men.

The battle of Mogadishu was portrayed at the time as a psychological and military disaster that had profound repercussions on US policy for years, over the wisdom of intervening in civil and ethnic conflicts far from home.

Both the movie and the book seek to shed a different light, without preaching, at a time when US soldiers are again fighting in a foreign land few could pinpoint on a map before Sept. 11.

As one of the experienced Delta force soldiers tells an idealistic, nervous young Ranger just before all hell broke loose, "Once the first bullet goes past your head, politics goes out the window!".

A friend named Jinggoy

(Conclusion)

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

THINGS lightened up later in the presscon when, after Jinggoy mentioned that his doctors advised him to quit smoking and watch his diet, an irreverent reporter flippantly asked whether his doctors also cautioned him against an active sex life—to which he gamely shot back, "Even if they don't advise me against it, I hardly have any chance to do it." And everybody exploded in laughter. It was a good thing that Precy, Jinggoy's wife, wasn't there yet when that naughty question was asked and answered.

Title

Then, the atmosphere tensed up a bit when Chit Ramos, who is a close friend of both Jinggoy and Bong Revilla Jr., mustered the courage to ask about their controversial friendship. Chit, of course, alluded to the title of the movie at hand to lighten her question: "*Sa ngayon ba ay nakahanda ka nang magpatawad sa isang kaibigang nang-iwan sa iyo?*"

Jinggoy tried to parry the question away: "*Sino ba ang tinutukoy mo? Ang dami kasing kaibigang nang-iwan sa amin.*"

After a pregnant pause, he drew a deep breath and said, "*Ang bagay na ito ay pinag-isipan ko nang matagal. Hindi ko talaga akalain na gagawin niya sa akin ang kanyang ginawa. Higit pa sa kapatid ang turingan naming apat—ako, si* Daboy (Rudy Fernandez), *si* Ipe (Philip Salvador) *at saka siya. Bakit niya ako ipinagpalit para sa kanyang* political career?

"*Hindi lingid sa inyong kaalaman na* text *siya ng* text *sa akin, humihingi ng tawad sa akin. Sa ngayon, masasabi ko na sa inyo na pinatatawad ko na siya. Pero, siyempre, yung sugat, malalim pa rin. Ang pagpapatawad ay kaya kong ibigay, pero ang kalimutan yung ginawa niya, baka matagalan pa yun.*"

Allegiances

The movie press, whose allegiances had been halved by the break-up of that famous show biz friendship, took Jinggoy's statement as fair under the circumstances, even as everybody hoped that everything would soon turn out for the best.

As the evening came to a close, Jinggoy turned wistful. "*Para na rin akong nakalaya dahil nakasama ko kayong muli, mga kaibigan ko sa* movies—*mga kaibigang hindi nang-iiwan. Sana, sa muli nating pagkikita, nasa labas na ako ng* Veteran's. *Sa susunod, sana, sa* Annabelle's *na ulit ang* presscon *at hindi na rito.*"

I'm glad I went to the press conference of "Walang Iwanan, Peksman." It was nice seeing Jinggoy again. It warmed my heart to press his hand and buss his cheek once more. And it gave me a delightful feeling of déjà vu to watch him exchanging pleasantries with the movie press. There was deep kinship there, a bond that defies political colors—or questions like where one spent the Christmas season.

For people like Jinggoy, Christmas simply came—and went.

Pops Fernandez has improved as a concert artist

FERNANDEZ. Positive energy.

BY RICKY T. GALLARDO

POPS Fernandez's progress and maturity as a genuine concert artist are becoming more evident with every new show she mounts. Take her ongoing series at the Onstage Theater every weekend.

"Weekend With Pops" is ArianWorks Management Corp.'s debut in concert production and we reckon it was a good decision for them to get Pops for their opening salvo.

For one, she doesn't pretend to be a power-belting diva who strains all her neck veins to procure sustained ovations. Second, she carefully selects the songs in her repertoire to make sure that she fulfills the audience's two basic requirements: high entertainment value and instant connection with the performing artist.

The concept show we saw was more than just a musical delight—it also filled the concert hall with a lot of positive energies. With 'Home' as the overall theme, Pops welcomed her audience to her sanctuary—and made us feel at home instantaneously—through well-thought-out segments, spot numbers and engaging guests who included Franco Laurel (his duet of Alcasid hits with Pops was good), RJ Rosales and the irrepressible Ai-Ai de las Alas, who took on the role of her funky *mayordoma*.

Aside from looking so inspired (we were a few seats away from her rumored Fil-French boyfriend Jacqués Dupasquier), it was obvious that Pops was having a lot of fun dishing out her songs, which made her more relaxed on stage. We particularly liked her medley of torch songs where she came out a much-improved singer.

Good serving of 'American Adobo'

Laurice Guillen's "American Adobo" is a simple tale about the lives of five friends who migrated to New York to find their destinies. Along the way, they found themselves and redefined their friendships.

We caught the premiere of the movie at Rockwell and we liked what we saw. There was a keen sense of truth in the way the characters evolved in the story and their emotions were so transparent and spontaneously fleshed out, we couldn't help but be moved.

Guillen not only has the flair but also the heart to transform Vincent Nebrida's characters into people we can all relate to. Although there were a lot of aphorisms scattered throughout and some scenes brought out memories of the Taiwanese movie "Eat, Drink, Man, Woman," the movie scored well on many aspects like musical scoring, editing, photography and brilliant acting by the movie's ensemble of A-1 actors.

Get stung by Sting

The foreword of Sting's latest CD, says, "This album was recorded on Sept. 11, 2001 and is respectfully dedicated to all those who lost their lives on that day."

Titled "All This Time," the power-packed album reflects on truth, loss and hope with Sting's signature no-nonsense, no-frills fusion of straightforward melodic and lyrical content.

Perhaps the most poignantly written among the songs is the first cut, "Fragile," which reminds us that nothing good can come from violence.

The CD was recorded live and each of the 16 cuts is proof that Sting gets better with age and experience.

Off to a good start

Television gag show director Uro de la Cruz is happy that he has a film showing at the start of the year. While he admits that his "Buko Pandan" is not a big a dish as "American Adobo," he's quick to say that it is, in its own way, delicious.

With bold stars Pyar Mirasol and Maricar de Mesa in the lead roles, there is no question that the movie is teeming with a lot of teasing ingredients. Once again, the female body is served as the main entrée.

Uro gave this film his all since he was impressed with his new producers' professionalism.

'Writer Ka Ba?'

Last week, the Screenwriters' Guild of the Philippines (SGP) organized a symposium on writing for film, "Writer Ka Ba?...Usap Nga Tayo!" The whole day affair was held last Jan. 13 at the Mowelfund Plaza on Rosario Drive in Quezon City and the guild invited award-winning writer Armando "Bing" Lao to be its lecturer.

Lao will also spearhead the guild's six-weekend writing seminar which will kick-off today and end on Feb. 24. Call tel. no. 941-4210.

STING. Reflections on truth, loss and hope.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JAN. 12 TO JAN. 25

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	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Priya en Da Pilot 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 'F' 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Final Drive 6:30 Auto Review 7:00 Barcelona Battle of the Gold Medalists 9:00 Fox News 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Auto Focus 12:00 Fox News	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Super S 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Eazy Dancing 10:30 Saturday Night Specials *After The Silence*	5:30 Pokemon 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakaba-aba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Special Unit II 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Losing Chase* 11:00 PGMA	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 11:00 IBC Eloride	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX Sampler	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Kalotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Kirk Cameron* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Robert Downey Jr.* 9:00 FYE *Celebs in Crisis* 9:30 FYE *Aaliyah: A Life Cut Short* 10:00 David Letterman 11:30 Uncut
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Pinoy Exposed 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 NBA 11:00 Business & Leisure 12:00 Fox News	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guylerd 7:00 Price is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *Lenny Kravitz at the Brickton Academy* 11:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 KI 8:00 Daddy Di Do Du 9:00 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Where In Time is Carmen San Diego 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Now and Then* 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:30 PBA Game 2 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Murder in Small town X 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 El True Hollywood Story *The Selena Murder Trial* 8:00 E! Special *Instant Celebrities* 10:00 E! Special *Suddenly I'm a Star* 11:00 60 Minutes
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 FPJ Action Cinema 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Fox News 10:30 Unlimited Diving 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahiha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Touched By An Angel 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Arliss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:00 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Kalotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus *World's Best Casinos* 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild On *Jungle*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Oka Tokat 10:30 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol	4:00 PBL 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Dokter 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 The Extremist	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:30 Storytellers 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Popular 8:30 The Others 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Kalotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Tim Allen* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Whattamen 10:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Private Conversation	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Friends 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Philippines Most Wanted	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bah Bole Nga 10:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Level 9 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Bully the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:00 Behind The Music 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:00 Primetime Classics 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Kalotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *What Women Want* 8:00 Mysteries And Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Sundance*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K'N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Attagirl 10:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu 101	4:00 PBL 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 NBA 12:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Shukiate 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Guinnes World Records 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kasangga 10:00 Sa Dako Pa Roon 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 48 Hours	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:30 MYX Concerts 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Kalotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:30 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Concert at the Park 12:00 Fox News		6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:00 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 Largo 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:30 Halo-Halo 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Mortal Combat 9:30 Oh Grow Up! 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Kalotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 InFocus *What Women Want* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *New Zealand* 12:00 Talk Soup

WALA ANG IBA NITO!

Ngayon, may angel stories na rin ang

TxTales from Talk'N Text

Journey's End

Magkasunod na nadisgrasiya ang magbestfriend na Kara at Gina. Ngunit wala ang mga pangalan nila sa book of life kaya sila sapilitang inagaw ng mga dark angels. Nailigtas agad ni Angel Barakiel si Kara pero naiwan naman si Gina. Makababalik pa kaya ang dalawa sa lupa?

Angel In Disguise

Naka-receive si Trix ng mga nakakatakot na text messages na akala niya ay prank text lamang. Nang magkatotoo at nagpakilalang si Angel Nanael ang sender nito, nakatanggap naman siya ng messages mula kay Kamatayan! Ano talaga ang totoo? Iligtas kaya siya ng kaniyang guardian angel?

Ang Guardian Angel Ni Renzo

Mahilig sa music si Renzo kaya di sila magkasundo ng ama. Problemado at animo'y walang direksiyon sa buhay, itititgil na sana niya ang pagbabanda nang makilala niya ang anghel na si Uriel na magtuturo sa kaniya na ang musika ay regalo ng Diyos na dapat i-share sa lahat...

Ang Pagbabalik Ni Matilda

Nakaligtas sa sumpa si Matilda pero muli na namang natuksong gamitin ang black magic para ibigin ni Josh. Ipagpapalit na niya ang kaluluwa kay Lucifer nang lumitaw si Michael, ang Archangel, handa siyang bawiin sa kuko ng kapahamakan...

It's easy to get started!

NOVELA ANGEL IN DISGUISE	241	HELP
Just type NOVELA and the title of the story...	Then send to 241	To get the available commands and keywords, type HELP, then send to 241

Choose how the story develops, Choose your own adventure!

Anong natanggap ni Trix? (1) nakakatakot na msg (2) babala	CHOICE 2	241
At certain points in the story, you will be asked to choose how you want it to continue	Type CHOICE and the number you want...	Then send to 241

Gusto mo bang malaman kung sino ang patron archangel mo?

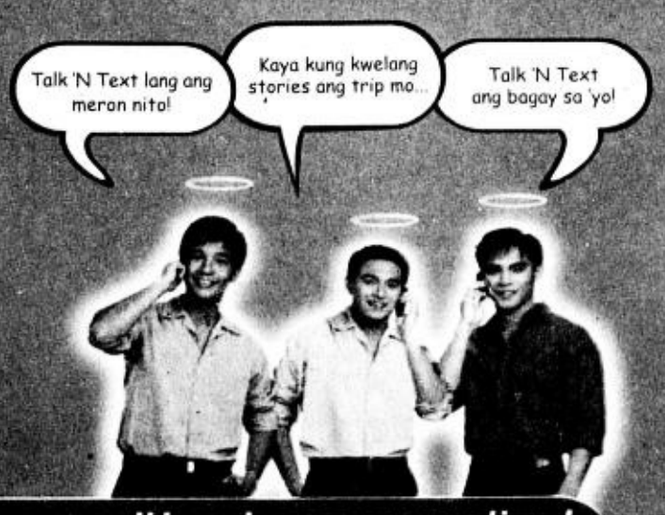
ANGEL 01 10 79	241
Type ANGEL <your date of birth mm dd yy>	Then send to 241

To complete the fun, puwede ka pang magdownload ng picture messages...

Gusto mo bang makita si Angel Nanael?	PIC N111	241
	Type PIC <code>	Then send to 241

At meron ding special ringtones!

Gusto mo bang marinig ang background music?	TONE T86	241
	Type TONE <code>	Then send to 241



Download requests will be charged as follows:
Help and other regular commands – P2.50 • Ringtones and Picture Messages – P12.00
Ringtones and Picture Messages can only be downloaded and operated using selected handsets

Entertainment Gateway Group

POWERED BY THE SMART NETWORK

Yan ang galing... without overspending!

Bong Revilla sports a new look

By Edmund L. Sicam

BONG Revilla surprised members of the press when he attended the press conference for his latest movie in an all-blue Armani suit. "*Disenteng-disente at nakakapanibago*" was how one reporter described him.

Bong said that he likes surprising people by doing things that are not expected of him. Much like his new movie under Viva Films, "Mahal Kita, Final Answer."

Fans of Bong Revilla who are used to seeing him throw punches and rescue damsels in distress from ruthless thugs will be in for a big surprise. In this movie, Bong reveals, he does not throw even a single punch. The movie follows a comedy-love story format, with Rufa Mae Quinto as his love interest.

Risk

Isn't Bong taking a huge risk by going against what is expected of him by moviegoers? He obviously doesn't see it as too risky for his career. "*Gusto ko naman makita nila* the other side of Bong. *Pupuede din tayong ganoon*," Bong explains.

To back up his move, he mentions the names of Hollywood stars Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone, who have made similar career moves and survived.

"*Gusto ko lang gumawa ng* something different, *na iba sa mata ng tao*. Like wearing suits," he jokes, "I never wear suits!" This is Bong's first non-action movie ever. "*Ibang-iba sa mga* Bong Revilla movie," he says excitedly. He explains that these days, one has to be flexible and willing to try new things. Bong says that he does not really do a lot of comedy in this movie. Rufa Mae got most of the punchlines and slapstick scenes.

Later, Bong corrects himself. He does do funny scenes but he is "dignified" throughout. "Comedy *na hindi ako nagpapatawa pero matatawa iyung tao*. Situational."

Bong describes his role in this movie, "*Parang suplado ang dating ko dito*. Dignified, businessman." He adds, "Parang loverboy. *Pabling*. *Parang* true-to-life story of Bong Revilla!" he kids, "*O, inunahan ko na kayo!*"

Totally different

"You will love the movie, it's totally different. Parang 'Pretty Woman' *na* local version."

Rufa Mae plays a woman who loves game shows and eventually becomes a contestant on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" Bong shares that it was Viva films that decided to pair him with Rufa Mae.

Bong shares that he felt his chemistry with Rufa Mae even on their television show, "Idol Ko si Kap." He feels that the show would not get good ratings if the viewers did not notice their chemistry as well.

Best comedy actor

Another blessing brought to Bong by his television show was his Star Award for best comedy actor. To Bong, who has long been known as an action star, this award came as a surprise to him.

Bong has declared that 2002 will be *his* year. "The year of the horse is my year. I was born in 1966." Bong states that 2001 was a bad year for him because he lost his best friend and his position as governor of Cavite. Fortunately, he was able to recover in time.

Election loss

After his loss during the last elections, Bong says he worked on his TV show and he worked out. As a result, he lost 20 pounds.

Bong says that he enjoys his life more at the present. "*Mas masarap ang buhay ko. Hawak ko oras ko*. Busy *lang ako sa* shooting, taping. *Walang* death threats....*tapos* you have more time for your family and yourself."

But he does miss the life of a public servant. He says it is already part of his system, having served as Cavite governor for several years now. "*Hindi mo makakalimutan ang mga* constituents *mo. Kahit wala ako sa* Cavite, *hinahanap ko pa rin*," he says wistfully.

REVILLA. No action scenes, for a change.

Carving a niche for Christ

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE ORIGINAL image of the Santo Niño of Cebu.

FRANCIS of Asissi, the saint who spoke and preached to birds and animals, created the "creche" or "*belen*" in 1223. This marked the beginning of the adoration and worship of the Holy Infant and it quickly spread throughout the world over the years.

Magellan's gift

Ferdinand Magellan, the Portuguese navigator who landed in Cebu in 1521, brought the first image of the child Jesus to the Philippines. When Magellan was killed, the statue disappeared and was presumed lost.

When Miguel Lopez de Legaspi arrived in Manila in 1565, the sailor Juan de Camus found the statue inside a native hut.

The image was enthroned on an altar after a fluvial parade, followed by a procession on the 28th day of April.

10-day exhibit

In 1978, Ben Farrales, joined others in committing themselves to propagate devotion to the Infant Jesus with the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus.

BEN Farrales, Congregacion founding chairman.

The Congregacion puts up an annual 10-day exhibit of various Santo Niño, images. A grand procession follows on the last Sunday of January.

There is also the Santo Niño chapel at the Violago Chapel in Quezon City where Congregacion members carry out their regular apostolic work.

The Santo Niño Fiesta 2002 will again be held at the Philippine National Bank, PNB Financial Center, Roxas blvd., Pasay City, from Jan. 24 to Feb 3. Call 525-9126, or Nolie Hans at 523-5102 or Ben Farrales at 525-3421.

The formal opening of the Santo Niño Fiesta 2002 Exhibit will be on Jan. 24. Cutting the ribbon are his Excellency Most Rev. Antonio Franco, D.D., PNB president and CEO Feliciano L. Miranda Jr., Jaime Cardinal Sin, Bishop Teodoro J. Buhain, Mayors Lito Atienza and Wenceslao B. Trinidad, and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

Registration

Registration for devotees will be on Jan. 21 to 23 at the PNB Skylight, 3rd floor. The grand procession of 500 carrozas will start from Philtrade.

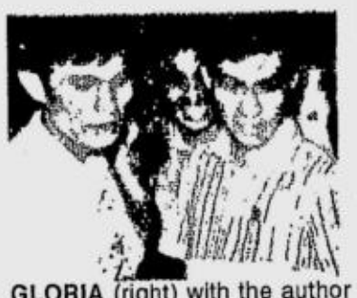
The Congregacion has three new members—John Erwin Enriquez, Arthur Borja and Val de Mesa.

NEW Congregacion members Arthur Borja, Val de Mesa and John Enriquez.

Tony Gloria, film producer

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)



GLORIA (right) with the author (left) and Leo Gozar in the late '60s.

THAT the film focuses on tested Philippine talents rather than box-office draws only underscores the fact that the producers realize that our big box-office stars carry little weight on the international market.

So, instead of hiring the services of our expensive superstars, they cast fine actors who may impress the world with their skill and as a result gain respect for our other talents. This will give the local industry that necessary global recognition.

Titles

Tony Gloria is a quiet, thinking producer. Those with inside info of the industry know him while the public may recognize him only if titles of his past films are mentioned. Tony was among my first set of students upon my return from the United States.

He appeared in Ugo Betti's "The Queen and the Rebels," a UP Speech Association production I directed that same year. It starred Maria Vargas, now Montelibano, as well as Wilhelmina Orozco, a staunch feminist, Oskar Atendido who went into fashion along with Eddie Hernandez, as well as Leo Gozar, who conceived those noontime fashion shows in Roxas blvd. remembered for their classical pretentiousness.

I directed Tony again in the Upsilon Sigma Phi production of the Broadway suspense drama, "Twelve Angry Men." He then directed a successful adaptation of the popular comic strip "Tisoy" which was soon after turned into a television series, although Tony was not included in the cast but went on to the world of advertising.

It's been many years since then. Tony Gloria enters the global production scene with his eyes wide open, and with ample experience and sensitivity to do well. Because it will redound very well on Philippine cinema that must break out and include the world market in its consciousness, we can only hope Tony Gloria, Laurice Guillen and "American Adobo" success. Their acceptance will be the success of all Filipinos. Who knows where the Philippine movie industry can go from there?

Junior INQUIRER

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Close Call

Large Asteroid passes close to Earth

AN ASTEROID large enough to wipe out France hurtled past the Earth less than three times the moon's distance from us just days after scientists spotted it.

The asteroid, called 2001 YB5, came within 830,000 kilometers of Earth on Jan. 7.

Dozens of asteroids pass close by the Earth each year, though 2001 YB5 was closer than most. On Jan. 11, for instance, an asteroid known as 2001 UU92 was expected to pass almost 18 million kilometers of Earth.

Asteroid 2001 YB5, estimated to be 304.8 meters across, was traveling about 109,432 kph relative to the Earth when it zipped past.

"It's a fairly substantial rock. If it had hit us at that sort of speed, you would be taking out a medium-size country, France, I suppose, or Texas, or something of that order," said Jay Tate, director of the Spaceguard Center in Wales.

Astronomers with the Nasa's Near-Earth Asteroid Tracking program discovered 2001 YB5 on Dec. 26 last year. Soon after, they calculated the asteroid's orbit and determined there was no danger it would strike Earth.

As astronomers become aware of more asteroids passing close to the Earth, they seek a standard way of alerting the public to the hazard they might pose. Among programs already in place is the Spaceguard Center's Comet and Asteroid Information Network, which began work Jan. 1. ***AP***

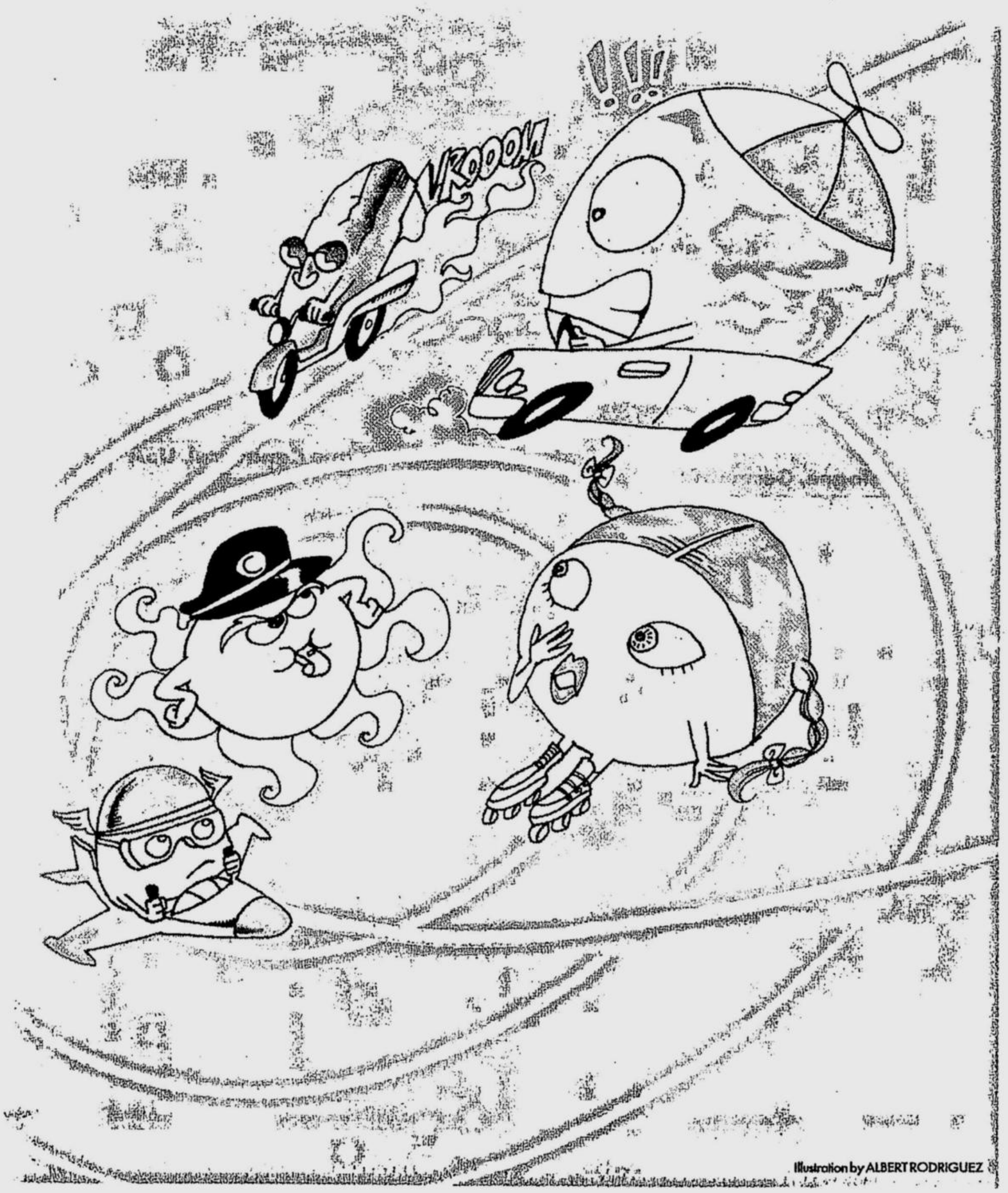


Illustration by ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

WORLD SCOPE

Free to Learn

SOMA, 8, listens during a Math class attended by first and second-graders at the Albironi School. Most of the girls had never been in a classroom before the fall of the Taliban. Under the Taliban, girls over 8 were banned from going to school. ***AP***

Sale Frenzy

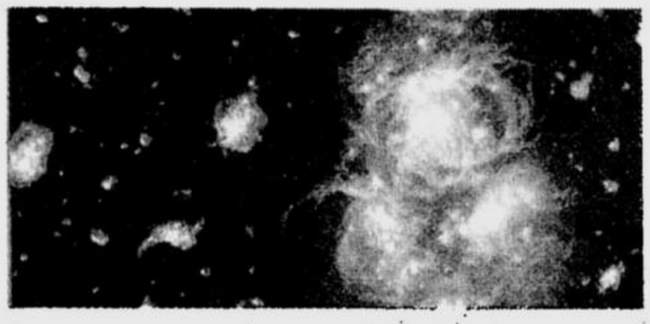
YIKES! Shoppers swarm for an 80-percent discount sale of clothing at Tennocho Saty, one of the outlets of bankrupt supermarket chain Mycal Corp., the fourth largest in Japan. The sale was part of the supermarket's strategy to pay-off it's debts. Its owners expected to sell 10 billion yen or $75.2 million worth of clothing, daily use items, toys and electrical appliances at its 104 outlets all over Japan. ***AP***

It's Got 'A-Peel'!

DOES this chair look familiar? If you like oranges, then it should. Designed by a Norwegian furniture designer, the idea for "Peel" came from the peel of an orange. This unique chair, as well as other artsy furniture, were on exhibit last week at an international furniture fair in Germany. A total of 1,450 companies from 50 countries presented their newest products. ***AP***

Big Bang Painting

SCIENTISTS and artists continue to debate about how the universe was born. Here is a recent rendition of the Big Bang theory made by artist Adolf Schaller. In his mind, this is how the very early universe, less than one billion years old, might have looked when it went through an onset of star formation. The Big Bang, the theoretical start of the universe, was followed by 100 million years of blackness, when there were no stars, planets or galaxies. That dark age ended with an explosion of light from stars bursting into life, lighting the universe like a fireworks finale. ***AP***



Young Mayor

JEFFREY J. Dunkel presides in a meeting as mayor during a council meeting. At 18 years old, Dunkel isn't old enough to pop open a bottle of champagne yet, but that didn't stop the young mayor and his family from celebrating his inauguration this month as the new mayor of Mount Carbon, Pennsylvania. ***AP***

Lessons of 2001 and Wishes for 2002

ESSAY BY ANNA ELVIRA S. ARCELLANA
MIRIAM COLLEGE GRADE SCHOOL
QUEZON CITY

POVERTY, economic crisis, political troubles, conflicts and slow but sure recovery—these were the things that marked the very challenging year 2001. Let's face it. Year 2001 was full of trials and whether we find it hard to admit it or not, it was also full of tragedies. But let's not ignore the fact that we produced good things out of 2001. These good things were the lessons that should serve as treasures for us. They should also guide us along our path to year 2002.

Let me share with you the "**Top 5 Things I Learned to Do During the Year 2001**."

5. Budget and Save

Year 2001 was the best time to put this into action. Because of the economic crises, I learned to prioritize my needs rather than my wants.

4. Keep track of the news.

Because of the recent major events outside our country—for example, the terrorist attacks on the US—I made sure I was well-informed by checking on the news regularly. That made me realize I want to be part of the solution to our world's problems.

3. Have a hopeful heart.

I continue to believe that hope is our strength to carry on in our quest for justice and peace.

2. Believe in the motto "I will survive."

Learning to believe in this motto creates good self-esteem. Soon you'll be surprised at how much faith you have in yourself.

1. Feel blessed.

Believe it or not, I gained a positive outlook toward things. I realized how lucky I am to be alive, safe and well-provided for. It helps to keep thinking of what you have rather than what you don't have.

Year 2001was indeed a difficult year and we are lucky to have survived. As we move on to 2002, let's carry on the lessons we've learned and let's carry on the lessons we've learned and let it serve as a light in the tough paths that we're about to take.

Now here are my "**Top 5 Wishes for 2002**":

5. Economic recovery.

Hopefully, the businesses in our country will start running a little more smoothly.

4. More friends.

Isn't a friend one of life's greatest treasures?

3. Less tragedies.

Of course less tragedies mean less suffering, less agony.

2. A Good heart.

I am aspiring to dump my bad qualities that hinder me from becoming a better person.

1. World Peace

I am longing for the day when all will be united, living in harmony as brothers and sisters.

I do believe that the power to make all of these wishes come true is within us. It depends on how we answer the call for unity, justice and peace.

As for the moment, let's start the year right and share the power of love with others. Cheers to Year 2002!

NEW YEAR SMILES. Grade 6 students of St. Johns School in San Juan ham it up beside a New Year display. JOAN BONDOC

Hawking beats odds

For one of the best scientists of our time, celebrating his 60th birthday is better than any scientific recognition

PROFESSOR Stephen Hawking, the best-selling cosmologist diagnosed with a crippling muscle disease as a young student and given only a few years to live, celebrated his 60th birthday on Jan. 8.

To mark the milestone, Hawking reviewed his life and research into the nature of the universe before an all-star cast of physicists gathered in the ancient university town of Cambridge in England.

Hardly able to move, Hawking spoke through a computerized voice synthesizer he has used since undergoing a tracheotomy after catching pneumonia in 1985.

But for the man who brought the secrets of black holes and relativity to the masses with his unlikely best-seller "A Brief History of Time," just reaching 60 is a remarkable achievement. His doctor did not expect him to live long when he was diagnosed with the disease during his college years.

"I try to lead as normal a life as possible and not think about my condition or regret the things it prevents me doing, which are not many," he says on his website.

In his lecture titled "60 Years in a Nutshell"—a reference to his latest book "The Universe in a Nutshell," Hawking joked that he nearly failed to make it to his own birthday party after crashing his wheelchair, "Quantum Jazzy," into a wall.

"It was nearly 59.97 years in a nutshell," he said. ***Reuters***

BIRTHDAY GUY. Professor Stephen Hawking and his wife Elaine pose for photographers during a photocall ahead of his 60th birthday at the Center of Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge. REUTERS

Workshops

ART AND LITTLE MASTERS. There will be a lecture and workshop with Faber Castells' Little Masters Club members and students from various elementary schools in Manila. Called "Land and Seascape" the workshop will be conducted by artist Fernando Sena at the Metropolitan Museum Manila on Jan. 26 at 1 p.m. For more info call 361-7391 to 92.

FREE WRITING WORKSHOP. A free workshop on creative writing is open for public school students ages 10-16. Workshop starts on April 2002. Complete the following requirements and send to P.O. BOX 355, Pasay City Central Post Office, Pasay City: a photocopy of your school I.D., your teacher's recommendation, photocopies of written works, and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Deadline is on Feb. 20, 2002.

TEEN LIT CAMP. The weeklong workshop for teen literature lovers and writers to be held at the Philippine High School for the Arts in Laguna is scheduled on April 15-19. Applicants must be 13-16 years old. Submit three literary works in poetry, essay or fiction and it need not fall under only one category. Call up Adarna House at 372-3548 or 49 for more important details. Deadline of submission is on Jan. 25.

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

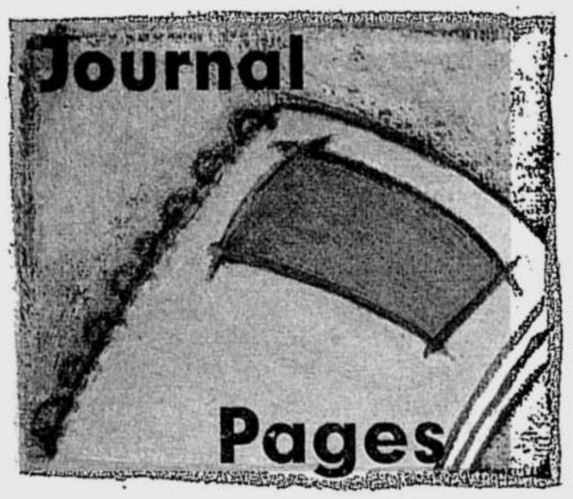
Contest

PBBY POSTER. The Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting design proposals for the 2002 NCBD poster. The guiding theme is "Salamat sa Libro, Abot Ko ang Mundo." Entries must be received by PBBY Secretariat not later than 5 p.m. on Feb. 15, 2002. For details call up 372-3548, send an email to pbby@adarna.com.ph, or drop by their office at 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City.

Cable Picks

THIS WEEK ON NGC. Vicious swamp tigers of Indian Sunderbans are feared for they are known to be man-eaters. Yet, they remain elusive with no signs of their presence. Catch a rare glimpse of this secretive tiger on "Swamp Tigers" on Jan. 24 at 8 p.m. on National Geographic Channel.

BATTLING THE WAVES. Waves up to 80 feet high were too tempting a challenge for surfers. But authorities knew better not one surfer was allowed to set foot in Hawaiian shores when an El Niño storm in the Western Pacific and strong winds carried huge swells onto the ocean. The ocean was then declared "Condition Black" by Hawaii's Civil Defense. Find out what really happened that day on Jan. 25 at 9 p.m. on NGC.



I am a Junior Star Scout

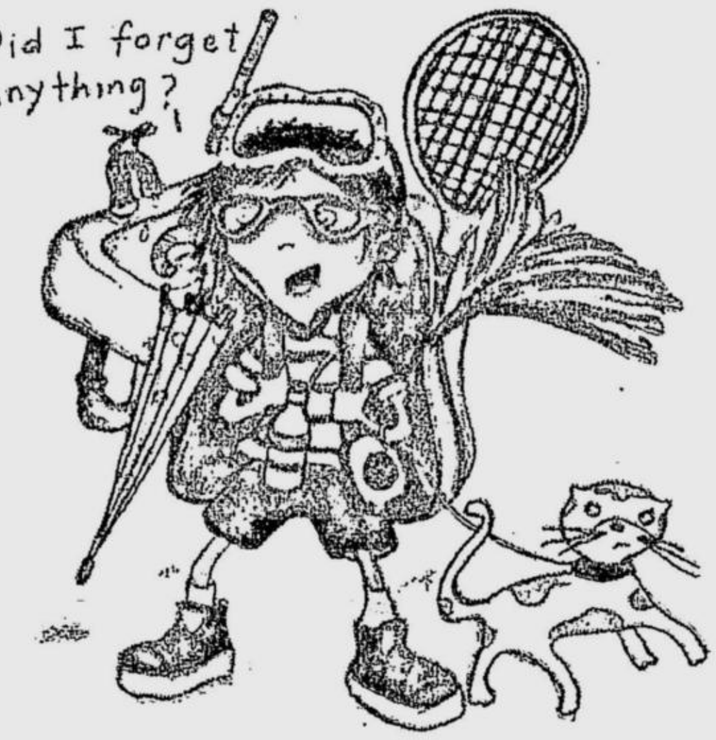
BY EVORA LYN G. TAN
TUMAUINI NORTH CENTRAL SCHOOL
TUMAUINI, ISABELA

I WILL become a Girl Scout in a few months. For now, I have to be contented being a Star Scout.

It is exciting. Sometimes, I have doubts and am not sure what I will do. My teacher says we will be camping here in our school soon.

I learned from my big brother—he's now in high school—all about the fun and the difficult yet memorable days they shared with other Boy Scouts. He made new friends, and he learned many things. He says these things will help him one day when he grows up to be a man.

Camping is a way of learning away from home. It is living for a few days far from home with my fellow Star Scouts and my teachers. It means doing things by myself.



Camping teaches us to be useful and good citizens one day. I heard we will have to cook. I am nervous about this, but I know our teacher will be there to help us too.

There will be new faces and this means new friends. We will work and play with a group of girls, some I may meet for the first time. It will be awkward at first. But maybe there we will learn to be friendly and nice. I will have new friends in other schools too.

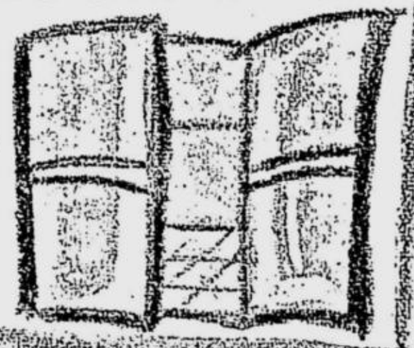
They said there will be lots of activities for us to do. In the evenings, there will be singing and dancing.

Will I manage away from home, from mama and papa who will not be around to help me? I guess so. To see is to believe and doing is learning.

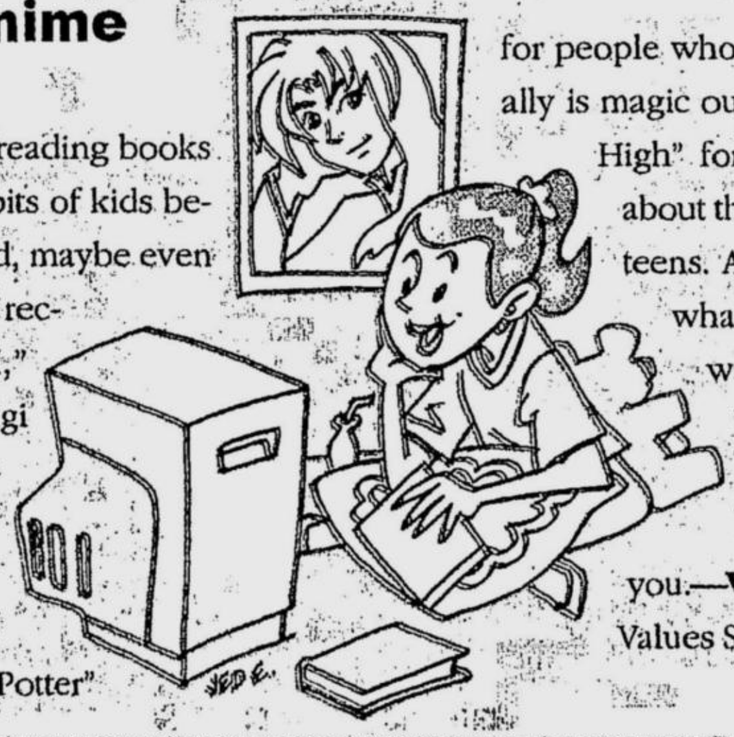
Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Books and Anime



WATCHING anime and reading books are two of the usual habits of kids between 9 and 15 years old, maybe even older. I really want to recommend "Samurai X," "Flame of Recca," "Fushigi Yugi" ("Curious Play") and "Kodomo no Mocha" ("Child's Toy").

The books I want to recommend are: "Harry Potter" for people who want to imagine if there really is magic out there and "Sweet Valley Jr. High" for people who want to read about the hardships of people in their teens. All in all, just read and watch what you want and don't read or watch things that really aren't your style. Respect other people's opinions and don't let their criticism get to you.—**VALERIE FLORES**, 11, Golden Values School, Pasig City

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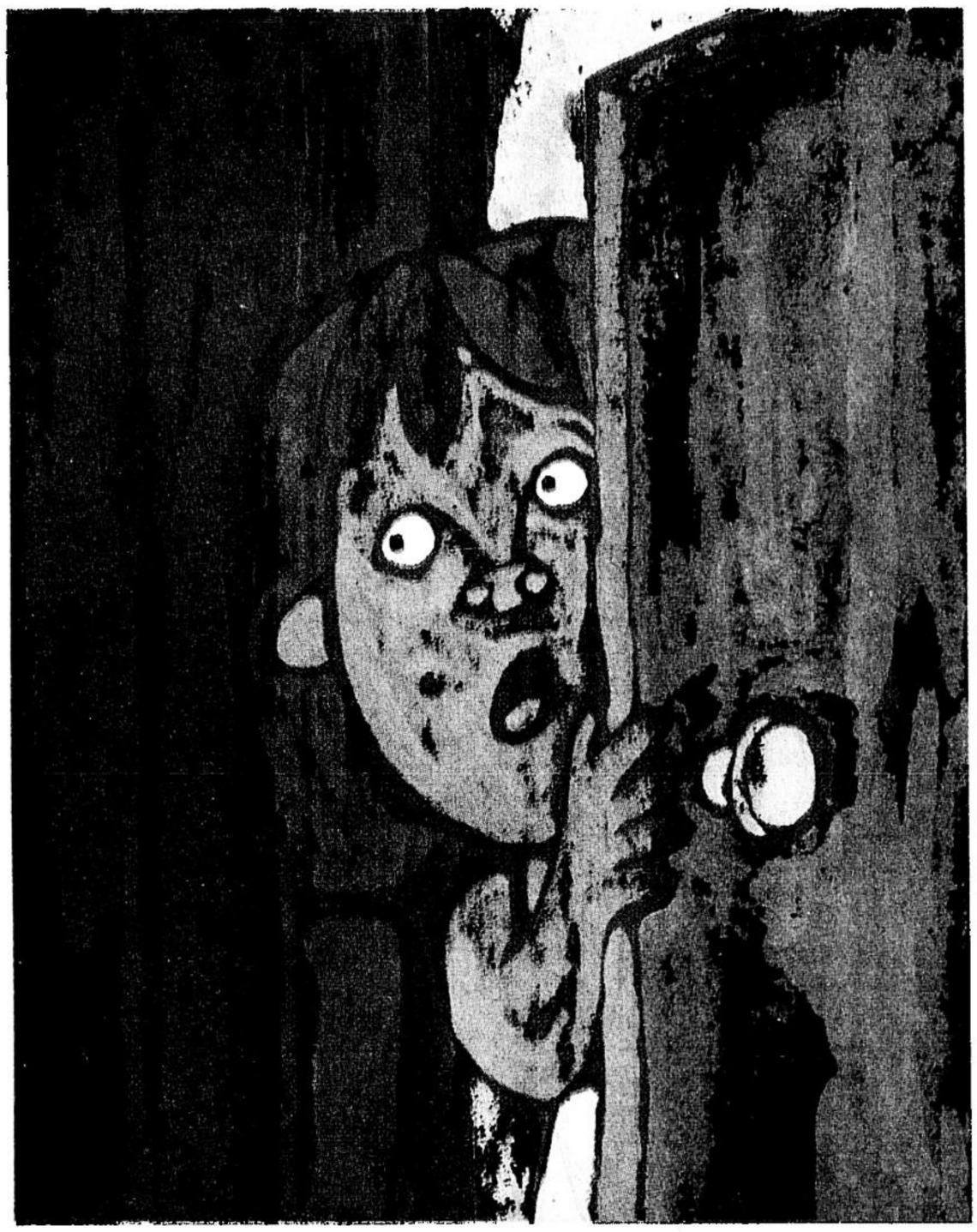
Nakikita't Nararamdama

NI GENARO
GUHIT NI



Dilim

Tila kumot na itim.
Bumabalabal sa lahat ng bagay.
Pilit mang hawakan,
humuhulagpos sa kamay.
Kahit sa kulambo ay lusût-lusutan.
Walang maaninag
kaya't bumabalong ang takot.
Nabubuo sa paningin
ang mga tila halimaw
na may malalaking kamay.
Agad-agad dumarating
ngunit kapag bukas ang ilaw,
agad-agad din tumatakas
bitbit ang takot
sa pusong lumuwag.

Lilim

Nagkukubli sa magkakasalikop
na dahon ng punong mangga.
Mahalumigmig sa balat,
tila halik,
malamig na labi ng mga dahon.
Kay-inam mamalagi
sa tila bubungan.
Silungan ngunit wala naman.
Titingalain.
Maaaninag ang mga tila espadang
liwanag sa pagitan ng mga dahong
nagbibigay lilim
ginhawa at pambihirang saya.

an ngunit Di Mahawakan

R. GOJO CRUZ
RITA BADILLA

FOR or By KIDS

Liwanag

Tila kumot na puti.
Tinatanglawan ang lahat ng bagay.
Pilit mang hawakan,
Humuhulagpos sa kamay.
Kahit sa nakasaradong bintana
ay lusut-lusutan.
Pinatitingkad ang lahat ng kulay.
Maliliit na disenyo ng lumang plorera,
mga bulaklak sa kobre kama,
pati mga paru-paro sa kurtina
ay buhay na buhay
at kitang-kita.
Kusang lumilisan
nang di namamalayan,
kusang dumarating
laging may pasalubong
sa mga batang di nauubusan
ng hiling.

Tubig

Di mahawakan,
sa kamay ay lusut-lusutan.
Kay bigat kapag binubuhat,
kay gaan kapag pumapatak.
Dumadausdos.
Nagbubutil-butil,
hatid ay ginhawa sa balat.
Pinatitingkad ang mga dahon
at talulot ng mga bulaklak
na sabik na sabik mawisikan.
Tutulay sa katawan ng halaman
papatak sa lupa,
mararating ang ugat na nauuhaw.
At kahit anong hugis pilit nagagaya.
Laging hiniling at hinihintay
ng mga magsasaka.

*Si **Genaro** ay nag-aral sa Philippine Normal University. Isa sa mga naging fellow sa 2nd UST National Writers' Workshop.*
*Si **Rita** ay miyembro ng Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Motocross Gal

Miriam Grade School's Katrina Andrews proves girls can ride hot wheels too

BY MARGAUX ORTIZ

DO you think that riding motorcycles and competing in motocross races are only for grown-ups men? Well, think again. Katrina Andrews is 9 years old and a girl, and she has been a motocross rider and enthusiast ever since she was 3.

"I've always idolized my dad, who is a motocross rider himself," says Katrina, a Grade 4 student from Miriam Grade School in Quezon City. She remembers tagging along with her dad JD to competitions and wanting to be just like him.

"That's why I got so excited the first time he taught me the basics of motocross!" she says.

Katrina explains that motocross for kids is different from that of adults. "First of all the terrain is different," she says. "The kids' racetrack is not as big, of course, with less complicated obstacles like jumps and curves." Katrina adds that their motorcycles are also smaller and easier to drive.

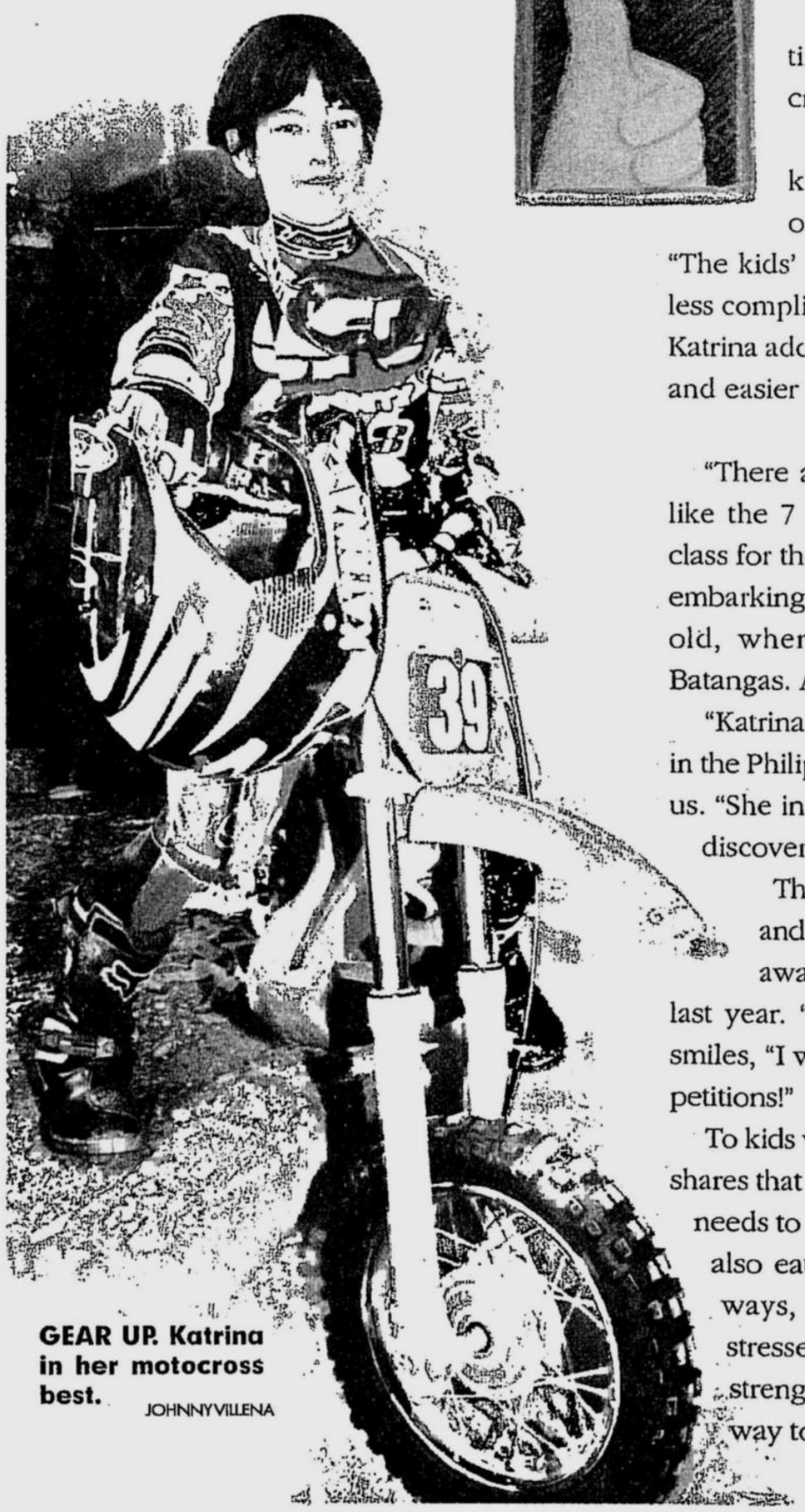
First Female Kiddie Rider

"There are also categories for kids' motocross like the 7 and below, 10 and below, and mini-class for those above 10," says Katrina. She recalls embarking on her motocross career as a 4-year-old, when she first joined a competition in Batangas. And it caused quite a stir.

"Katrina was the first female kid motocross rider in the Philippines," her mom Michelle proudly tells us. "She inspired a lot of girls to try the sport and discover how exciting it is."

The 9-year-old has won numerous trophies and medals since then, including a first-place award she won in a competition in Batangas last year. "That was my most favorite day," she smiles, "I was inspired to join and win more competitions!"

To kids who are interested in motocross, Katrina shares that practice is the most important thing one needs to become a rider. "Of course, you should also eat the proper food, sleep early and always, always wear your helmet," Katrina stresses. Top it all with endurance, discipline, strength and courage and you're well on your way to become a champion motocross rider!



GEAR UP. Katrina in her motocross best. JOHNNY VILLENA

R U RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free **Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kid 'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at

_____

and studies at

_____

Her/his contact number is:

_____

Sender's Name:

_____

Sender's Age & School:

_____

Sender's Address:

_____

Sender's Contact No.

_____

'Teacher with a Heart'

Miriam Grade School's Edwin Eulalia says sometimes a teacher is a brother or a father...

MR. EULALIA'S fourth grade students at Miriam College Grade School say he's "a good man," "a person who cares for everybody" and simply "the BEST!"

One of the more interesting titles given to him is "teacher with a heart."

"I don't really know what that means," he says. "Maybe it's because of the values I want them to learn."

What are those values exactly?

"Self-discipline, honesty, knowing what's really happening around them, and being more sensitive to what's around them," he explains.

Edwin Eulalia has always wanted to teach. You could say it runs in his family: His father, sister, and brother are all teachers. At 33 years old, Mr. Eulalia has been teaching for the last 10 years, 7 of them in Miriam. He was actually one of the first male teachers to join the faculty of the all-girls grade school.

TEACHER DAD. Mr. Eulalia reads at home with his son Pocholo.

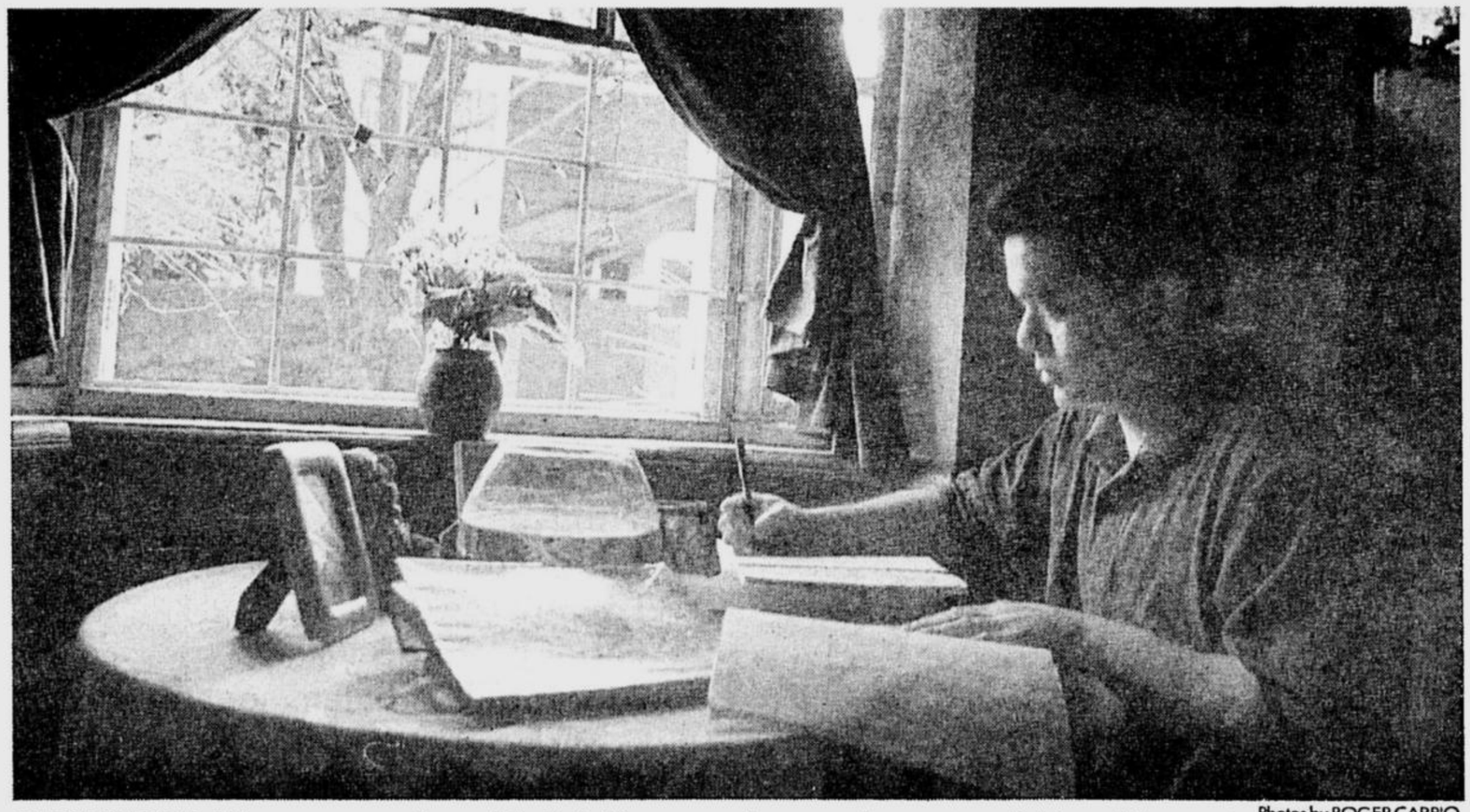
Advisor At Last

This year for the first time, Mr. Eulalia—who is currently a reading instructor—became the homeroom advisor for Grade 4-Mutya, and found this experience worthwhile and rewarding.

"I get to talk to them (his advisory students) on a more personal level," he says. "More or less, what I discovered with my homeroom class is that some don't have fathers, or some have separate parents. That's where I can contribute the most, to be a brother or a father...to them."

Being a teacher has given him the greatest satisfaction. "I guess that's the prize for all your efforts, the feeling of fulfillment. The best thing would be to see them grow and be successful people, practicing what we— not just myself but other teachers—teach them. And not just because I wanted it, but that they discovered it on their own and wanted it also."

Pepper Marcelo



PAPERWORK. Like most teachers, Mr. Eulalia uses a lesson plan to teach his subjects.

Photos by ROGER CARPIO

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____.
He/She is ____ years old and is my _____.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1) _____;
2) _____;
3) _____;
4) _____;
and
5) _____.

My nominee lives at _____
_____.
Give him/her a call at _____
_____ or send him/her an e-mail at _____.
By the way, I'm _____
_____.
I'm _____ years old.
My address is
_____.
You may call me at
_____.

Body of Evidence

HOW well do you know the human body? Some of the statements below are scientific fact, some pure fallacy or old superstition. Check each one out and tell if it's *True* or *False*.

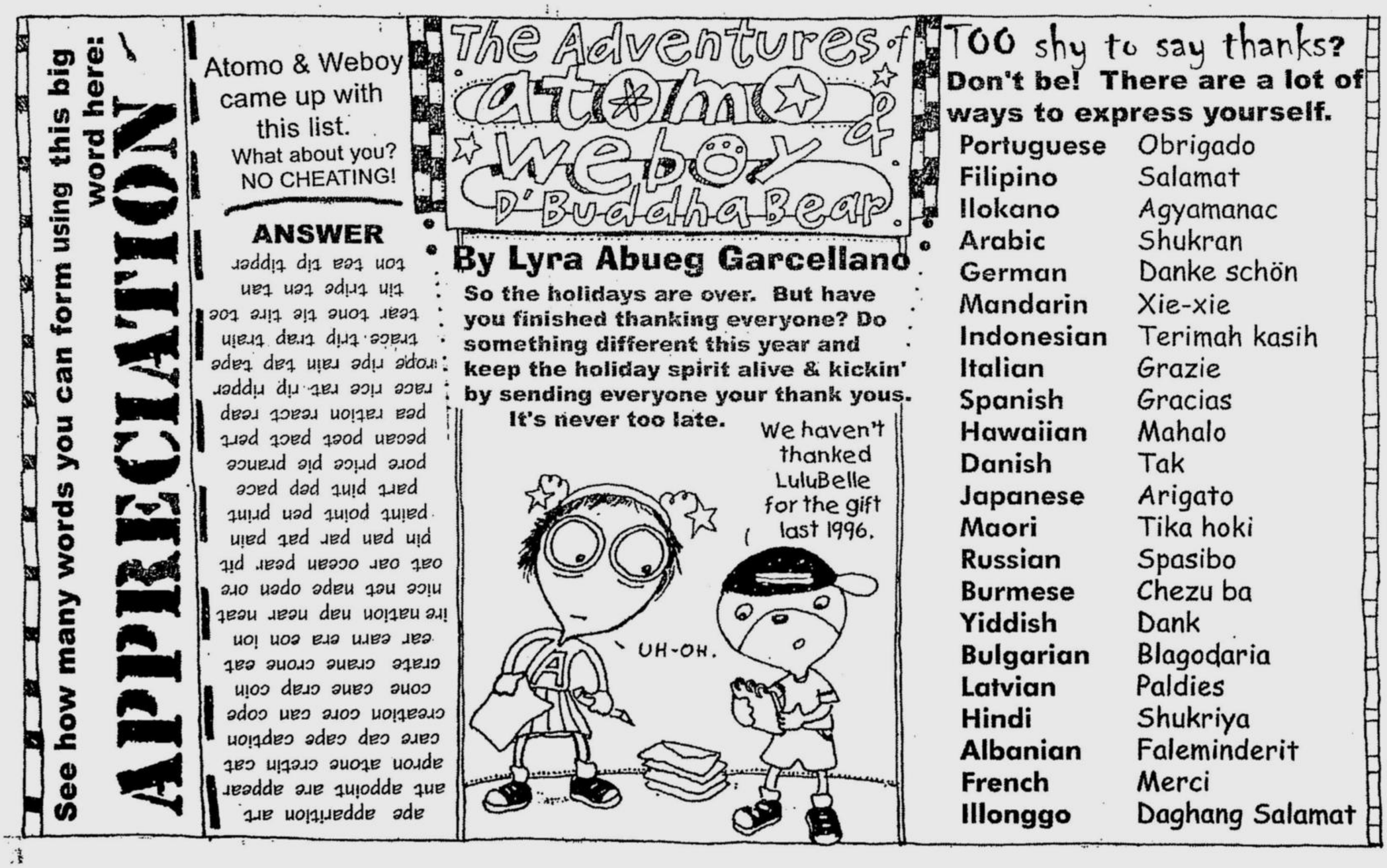
1. Men have one less rib than women.
2. Cracking your knuckles causes you to have large knuckles.
3. Men can get breast cancer, too.
4. Cutting or shaving hair makes it grow faster.
5. Perfect vision is 20/20.
6. A loss of blood circulation causes a hand or a foot or whatever to "fall asleep."
7. The heart is on the left side of the chest.
8. Being cold and wet will cause you to catch a cold.
9. A headache is the brain feeling pain.
10. Women have always outlived men.
11. The backbone is the largest bone in the body.
12. Bad breath ultimately emanates from the lungs and not from the mouth itself.

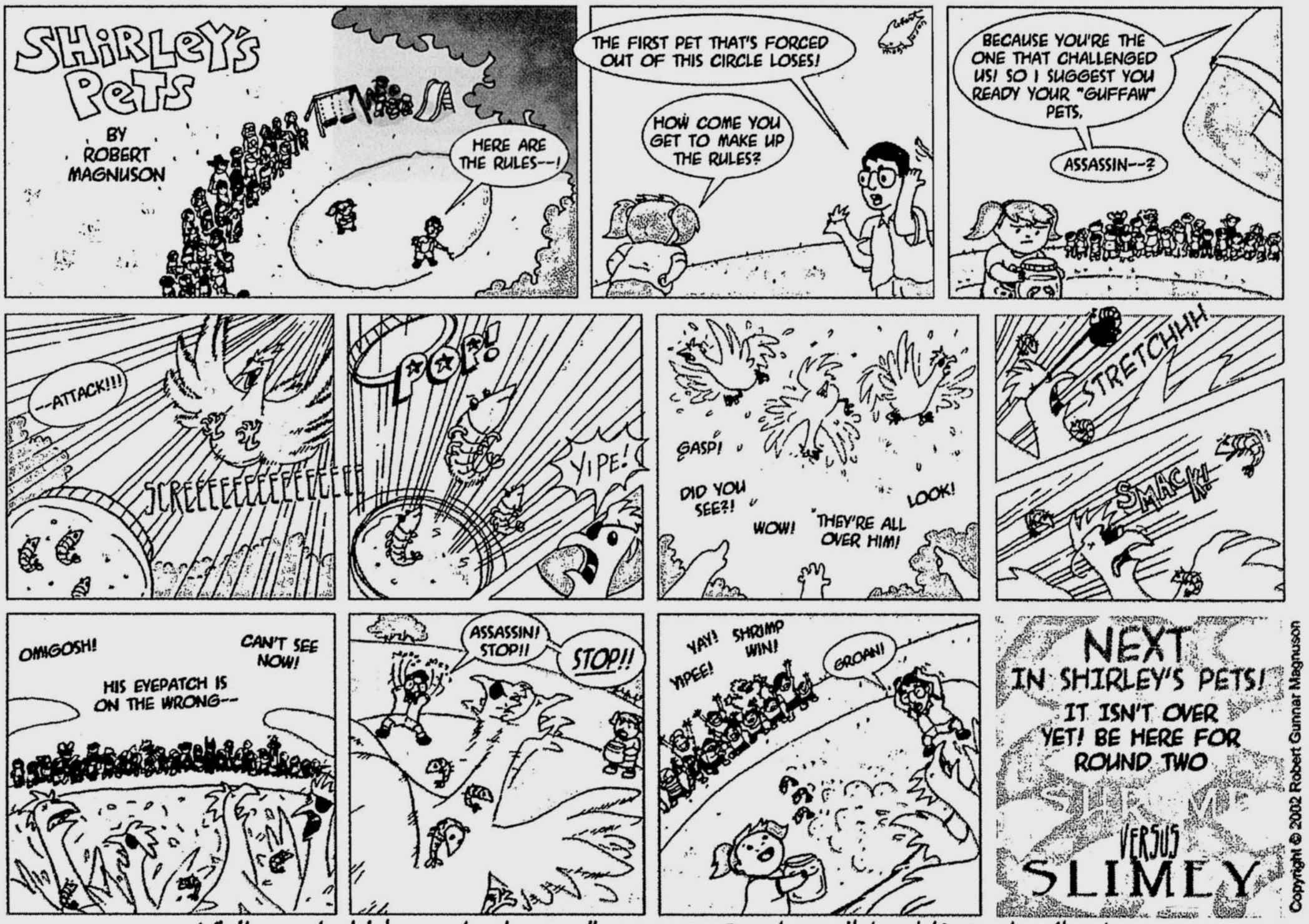
Answers :

1. *False.* Both men and women have 24 ribs.
2. *False.* Knuckle cracking is a harmless pastime, and does not lead to any medical problem. When you separate the two bones of a knuckle it causes a pressure drop in the synovial fluid that lubricates the joint. Gas dissolved in the fluid comes out and forms a bubble, which immediately collapses, causing the popping noise.
3. *True.*
4. *False.* The onset of hair and its rate of growth are determined by genes. The growth itself occurs at the root of the hair, which is unaffected by cutting off the hair's end, or even by the closest of shaves.
5. *False.* Normal vision is 20/20, meaning a person can see at 20 feet what it is normal to see at 20 feet (letters on an eye chart, for example). If a person can see only at 20 feet what it is normal to see at 50 feet, that person has 20/50 vision. If a person has sharper than normal vision, however, and can see at 20 feet what it is normal to see only at 10 feet, that person has 20/10 vision.
6. *False.* The "falling asleep" (*namanhid*) effect is caused by pressure on the nerves, not on blood vessels. Sensation returning to the temporarily restricted nerves causes the tingling sensation. Loss of blood circulation has far different, and far more serious, symptoms.
7. *False.* The center of the heart in most people is in the center of the chest. The human heart is not completely symmetrical, and a small portion at the bottom curves slightly to the left. A straight line through the breastbone would go through the middle of the heart.
8. *False.* The only thing that can cause you to catch a cold is a virus. One reason why people catch colds more often during the rainy season is that they're packed together indoors, so the virus is more easily transmitted. You can get as cold and as wet as you want, but if the virus isn't present, you cannot catch a cold.
9. *False.* The brain cannot feel pain, because it has no pain receptors. The pain you feel generally originates from the nerves, muscles, and tissues outside the skull.
10. *False.* For most of human history, men outlived women. It wasn't until this century, when the death rate from childbirth dropped significantly, that women began to outlive men.
11. *False.* The backbone – spinal column, spine, or vertebral column — is not a single bone, but consists of 34 bones. The largest bone in the human body is the femur or thighbone.
12. *True.*

RATINGS :

11 - 12 | 9 - 10 | 7 - 8





Visit us at shirleyspets.cheesedip.com or Send email to shifu@animail.net

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

How many babies are in a mother Matryoshka Doll

Find the answer.
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Macapagal's ratings fall in latest survey

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

JANUARY 20, 2002 ★ 52 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL. 17 NO. 43

'Tiyanak' gives Edsa II fete touch of humor

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ
Contributor

THOUGH their hearts be heavy due to the "shameless betrayal of everything that Edsa Dos stands for," the march of

TIYANAK/ A16

YOU makes Gloria smile

BY FE ZAMORA AND DONA PAZZIBUGAN

IN THE PRESENCE of a smiling President Macapagal, 19 serving and retired military and police officers of the Young Officers Union (YOU) who were involved in past coup attempts revealed their identities yesterday and told Ms

YOU/ A16

JOANNA JOSE

SCRAPBOOK OF HISTORY
Jan. 19, 3:50 p.m.: All set to go to Edsa after donning a bullet proof vest, the future President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, at the foyer of the Jose residence leads the others in prayer among them Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Hernani Braganza, then AFP Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes and (Ret.) Maj. Gen. Leo Alvez. ***(Story below)***

Don't do an Erap, GMA told

'Core group' holds reunion, minus a few

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

A FEW key figures were conspicuous by their absence, but President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday appeared in a good mood after a reunion with the "core group" that helped put together a new government at this time last year.

The scene was the Linden Suites in Ortigas Center, which the then President-in-waiting sequestered as her "command post" during the four-day People Power II at the nearby Edsa Shrine. ***(See related story on Page B1).***

Ms Macapagal unveiled a marker that had been put up at the lobby and that declared the hotel's part in history.

The hotel also chose to rename

CORE/ A16

Ramos fires own shot after telling Gloria critics to shut up

SINGAPORE—A week after he publicly rebuked a former member of his Cabinet for being highly critical of President Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Fidel Ramos was yesterday quoted by a newspaper here as saying that Ms Macapagal should focus on fixing the economy rather than preparing for the next presidential election.

Ramos told The Straits Times that Ms Macapagal should avoid making the mistake of her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, who was ousted a year ago in a popular uprising.

"I hope she avoids what Erap did and this was a very big mistake—he did his master bedroom first. Of course, symbolically, it's not just one bedroom but mansions here and there," Ramos said.

"In other words, don't take care of yourself ahead of others," said Ramos, 73, who has taken the self-imposed role of an elder statesman after ending his six-year term in 1998.

Priority should be given to reviving the economy, said Ramos, adding that this "needs direction and initiative."

Incidentally, in an interview published by the INQUIRER on Dec. 26, Ramos also had the same advice for Ms Macapagal, albeit cloaked in more diplomatic words:

"She and her immediate circle of friends, family, leaders and Cabinet must not be seen by the people at this early stage to be looking fondly at the year 2004 because there are still so many problems to be solved that require multipartisan support at this time."

In the INQUIRER interview, Ramos also said that he had advised Ms Macapagal: "We have to build, we have to restore, we have to reform, and we have to get on a sustainable growth path as you have promised, Madam President. To me it's still the economy that must be given priority and long-term focus."

Earlier this month, Ramos' former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez Jr. accused Ms Macapagal of putting her alleged election plans over the country's interests.

Enriquez had told a radio interview on Jan. 6 that Ms Macapagal's "supposed desire to serve the country is overwhelmed and obscured by her stronger desire to win in 2004."

DON'T/ A15

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

FEELING right at home, US Air Force S/Sgt. Antoinette Wheeler on Friday prepares to patrol Clark Air Base in Angeles, Pampanga.

The house where history was made

BY STELLA O. GONZALES

ON JAN. 19, 2001 the normally quiet Jose residence in Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City, was thrown into a tizzy as the main players of what would subsequently be called People Power II gathered there to discuss the political fate of the nation.

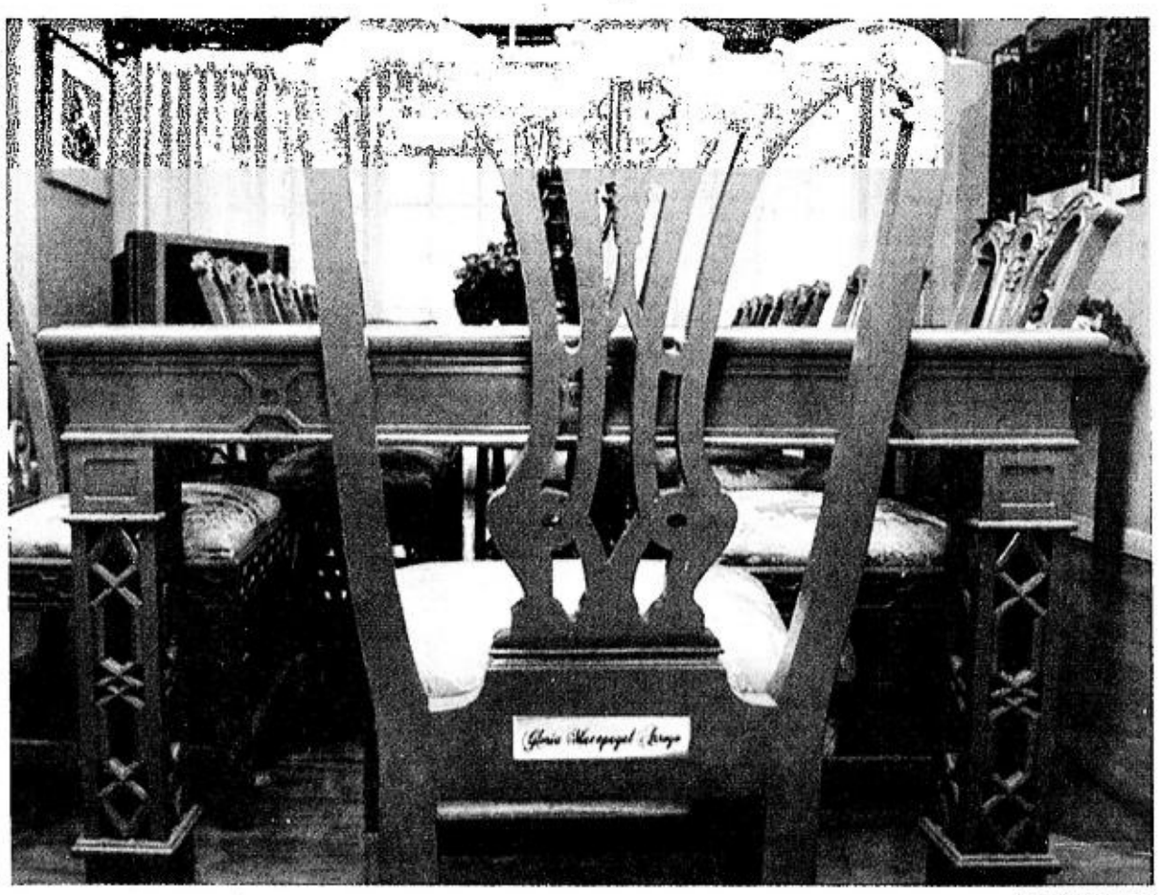
For three hours, the household played gracious host to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, then Armed Forces chief Gen. Angelo Reyes, the major armed service commanders, the board of generals, former President Fidel Ramos, then Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, and their aides and bodyguards.

The owner of the house, businessman Eddie Jose, did not personally know any of the principal Edsa II players. In fact, he did not even know they were coming to his house.

Jose's only "link" to them was his golfing buddy, retired Maj. Gen. Leo Alvez. (Alvez was a mistah and bunkmate of Reyes at the Philippine Military Academy. They were also compadres.)

At about 7 a.m. that day, Alvez went to Reyes' house in Camp Aguinaldo to convince him to withdraw support from then President

THE/ A16



VAL HANDUMON

THE SUCCESSOR President sat here alone conferring with then AFP Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes for 35 minutes in the Jose's air-conditioned dining room.

IBON SURVEY

Yanks vs Abu? Filipinos say no

BY ALCUIN PAPA AND PDI BUREAUS

MOST Filipinos oppose the participation of US troops in wiping out the bandit group Abu Sayyaf, according to the results of a survey conducted by the Ibon Foundation Inc. for the period November-December.

In the survey conducted by the foundation's Databank and Research Center, 1,136 respondents from various sectors were asked whether they approved of the direct participation of US troops in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf.

Ibon said 52.73 percent of the respondents replied "no," and 40.32 percent, "yes." But of the 450 respondents from Metro Manila, 48.44 percent answered "yes," and 42.67 percent, "no."

The survey has a margin of error of +/-5, Ibon said. It was undertaken to find out the people's perception of the country's economy, their income and livelihood, the government's performance and other concerns. *(See story on Page A2.)*

More than 600 US troops, including the elite Green Berets, are now in the Philippines for the Balikatan war exercise dubbed "Kalayaan-Aguila 2002," which is due to start next month.

The exercise will feature "test missions" aimed at wiping out the Abu Sayyaf and rescuing its hostages, American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap.

Agence France Presse yesterday quoted Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, as saying that Philippine troops had sighted the Burnhams but were unable to rescue them.

Cimatu said the missionaries had been seen with their Abu Sayyaf captors in the jungles of Basilan. But he would not say when the sighting occurred.

Critics say the presence of the US troops violates the Constitution, and activist groups are demanding their pullout. But the Department of Justice has said the US presence was

YANKS/ A17

Second FRONT PAGE

Gloria's ratings fall in latest survey

BY ALCUIN PAPA

ONE year after being installed in office on the back of a popular people power uprising, President Macapagal-Arroyo is confronted with the prospect of a severely eroded public approval of her administration.

A survey by the Ibon Foundation Databank and Research Center showed the Macapagal administration obtaining a net satisfaction rating of negative 8.27 percent nationwide.

The survey, released yesterday, also showed Metro Manila residents' dissatisfaction with Ms Macapagal's government worsening in the last quarter of 2001.

The survey revealed that the net satisfaction rating of the Macapagal administration in Metro Manila was –6.67 percent in the last quarter of last year, way below the 19.20 percent satisfaction rating it got in the October 2001 Ibon survey.

The survey, conducted nationwide between November and December 2001, used a sample base of 1,136 respondents chosen from across different sectors and has a margin of error of plus or minus 5.

The survey results showed 38.38 percent of the respondents (5.99 percent responding "*mahusay*" or "good" and 32.29 percent "*pwede na*" or "average") saying they were satisfied with the performance of the government.

But with 46.65 percent saying the administration was governing poorly ("*masama*") and 14.96 percent undecided ("don't know"), the Macapagal administration got a net satisfaction rating of –8.27 percent.

With regard to their perception on how the economy was doing, 58.01 percent of the respondents said the economy was worse in 2001 while only 4.58 percent believed it was doing better.

Also, 48.33 percent of those surveyed felt their own economic situation had worsened while only 9.60 percent said it had improved.

Only 9.51 percent of respondents said they were hopeful that the economy would improve.

Ibon said the survey was undertaken "to find out the people's perception of the country's economy, their income and livelihood, the government's performance and other concerns."

Last week, the Ibon Foundation reported that economic growth during jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada's last year in office was higher than during the first year of the Macapagal administration.

Ibon research director Antonio Tujan Jr. said the country's gross domestic product (GDP) only grew by 3.1 percent in the first nine months of 2001, much lower than the 4.1-percent expansion during the same period in 2000, Estrada's last year in office.

The Ibon report belied government claims that the domestic economy was expanding as shown by the 2.9-percent GDP growth registered in the third quarter of last year.

The report said the growth of the domestic economy was actually "decelerating," with the growth rate slowing down by 1.9 percentage points from the second quarter of 2001 to the following quarter.

Tujan said this did not necessarily mean that Estrada was a better president and had followed a better economic policy than Ms Macapagal.

The "international circumstances" were different in 2000, with the Southeast Asian region on the road to recovery while there was now a recession in even the three largest economies of the world, the United States, Japan and Germany, he said.

As the President celebrates her first anniversary in office, Ms Macapagal finds that many of the groups which supported her are showing signs of unhappiness.

The economy is more stable and official corruption is less pervasive, but crime and kidnappings have soared, foreign investors are running scared and poverty has increased.

Left-wing groups have held demonstrations to convey their displeasure over the presidency, former President Ramos has noticeably cooled and even the Church has said the leadership needs improvement.

The United States' war on terrorism has reached the Philippines with the deployment of US troops as non-combatants in Mindanao, sparking protests.

Ms Macapagal's most vociferous opponents, the urban poor of Manila who still consider Estrada their champion and feel they were bypassed by a revolution led by a business elite and the middle class, look unlikely to be swayed by a public relations offensive she has launched to woo them. ***With a report from Reuters.***

'STILL THE ONE.' For this defiant-looking little girl waiting for the President the other day to visit her home in Tondo, Manila, recent surveys notwithstanding, Ms Macapagal is "still the one" for progress. EDWIN BACASMAS

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Nur's followers in PNP finally agree to leave Jolo

BY TJ BURGONIO

OVER 400 Moro integrees in the Philippine National Police were ferried yesterday from Jolo, Sulu to Parang, Maguindanao without a hitch, following their alleged involvement in the massacre of at least 12 Marines and Scout Rangers last week.

"As I speak, all the policemen, including 30 women, are being sent to Parang. There's no more problem in Sulu. The situation is back to normal," said police Director Lucas Managuelod of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management.

Managuelod arrived in Manila yesterday morning from Sulu where he held a dialogue with the former Moro rebel fighters who were integrated into the PNP in 2000 and who belonged to the police Special Mobile Group (SMG).

The Muslim rebels-turned-policemen finally obeyed a government order and left the island stronghold of their detained leader Nur Misuari, according to an AFP report.

Regional police commander Acmad Omar said the 439 integrees took a chartered ferry to Maguindanao where they will stay in a police training camp while the violence in Jolo is investigated.

The policemen were involved in a series of clashes that claimed the lives of over 20 persons, including at least 12 Marines and Scout Rangers in Jolo, following protests over the detention of Misuari.

The Rangers and Marines had earlier been pulled out of Jolo to defuse tensions but the police had threatened to take up arms and refused orders to leave until now.

"We are glad it's finally over," Omar said.

"Now, all we have to do is to wait for the outcome of the investigation ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo. For the meantime, the integrees will stay in the barracks until we say so," Omar said.

The former rebels were integrated into the police force as part of a peace accord signed by the government and Misuari in 1996.

In November, however, Misuari mounted a pocket revolt in Jolo in an attempt to prevent his replacement in elections later that month.

The revolt was quashed and Misuari was arrested after fleeing to Malaysia. He is now under detention in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, facing rebellion charges.

Manguelod said that with the help of local officials, he was able to convince the integrees to agree to their transfer to Maguindanao, after he assured them they would not be disarmed and their benefits would not be forfeited.

"I talked to all of them. When I explained to them what we wanted to happen, they agreed," said Managuelod.

At the meeting, the integrees "pledged loyalty to the Republic" and denied that they were going to mount a mutiny if the PNP insisted on pulling them out of Sulu, as Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen had warned, Managuelod said.

"He's wrong. How can he know what happened? He has not talked to the policemen. He's not even from that place. What he's saying is pure speculation," Managuelod said of Dilangalen.

Dilangalen had warned the integrees might revolt against the government "if national police chief Leandro Mendoza forced the issue of transferring them to Parang, Maguindanao."

The integrees, part of the over 1,000 former MNLF members who were integrated into the PNP and AFP, were confined to barracks in the wake of the mis-encounter with the Marines last Tuesday afternoon.

Managuelod said he and Armed Forces Gen. Felipe Gaerlan have agreed to abide by the results of the investigation into the mis-encounter.

Managuelod and Gaerlan, together with Deputy Director Samuel Ong of the National Bureau of Investigation, had gone to Sulu to hold dialogues with the integrees as well as to look into the incident.

The NBI is the lead agency investigating the incident, with the AFP and PNP as supporting agencies. The three agencies were given 72 hours to submit a report of their findings to President Macapagal.

"Whatever the findings of the NBI, we have agreed to respect it," Managuelod said. ***With an AFP report***

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More Indons sought in GenSan TNT case

BY TJ BURGONIO

POLICE have launched a massive search for two Indonesian nationals suspected of being members of an al-Qaida terrorist cell and a missing cache of explosives following the arrest of another Indonesian believed to be a key member of the Jemaah Islamiya terror group operating in Southeast Asia.

The two, identified as Tau Pic and Hassan, reportedly fled their safehouses in General Santos City after getting wind of the arrest of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi in Manila on Tuesday, intelligence officials said yesterday.

The two are believed to be still in the country.

Al-Ghozi's arrest as he was about to leave for Bangkok on Tuesday led to the discovery of a cache of explosives and weapons in General Santos City meant for attacks in Southeast Asian countries.

Police said they had acted on information provided by Singapore that Al-Ghozi was a key leader of the Jemaah Islamiya, an Islamic terror group operating in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines with links to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden.

Tau Pic and Hassan have been charged with illegal possession of high-powered explosives, firearms and ammunition along with three other Filipinos who were arrested during a raid of their safehouses last Thursday.

The pair was said to have ordered their Filipino associates to bury the 50 boxes of TNT, 17 M16 rifles, 300 detonators, a ton of explosive boosters and six rolls of detonating cord that were dug up during the raid.

PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza said some of the explosives, which were all locally made, have remained unaccounted for.

"We'll conduct an inventory to determine where they came from," he said.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, who issued the mission order for Al-Ghozi's arrest, said she had received intelligence information that the explosives were meant for shipment to Singapore by way of Malaysia.

Police said Al-Ghozi had gone to Singapore in October to "assist in the preparation for the bombing of the US and Israeli embassies, the Australian and British high commissions, US companies and military installations."

Earlier this month, Singapore revealed that it had arrested 13 people linked to Jemaah Islamiya who were planning attacks on US military personnel and US navy ships. Eight of them were confirmed to have received training in al-Qaida training camps in Afghanistan.

With the arrest of al-Ghozi, Interior Secretary Joey Lina declared as solved the bloody bombings in Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000 that claimed at least 18 lives and left more than a hundred injured.

Police said al-Ghozi had provided funding and bomb components to a certain Mukhlis Yunus, the principal suspect in the bombings.

Al-Ghozi, who police said had been an explosives trainer with the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front, reportedly confessed his participation in the bombings.

He is believed to have been the one who called a newspaper, identified himself as a "freedom fighter" and claimed responsibility for the carnage.

"Now the government has in its custody a person who has not only admitted participation but led government to physical evidence to back his claim that he was indeed involved," Lina said.

In Jakarta, Indonesian police spokesperson Saleh Saaf told Reuters the 30-year-old Al-Ghozi was a Canadian citizen of Arab descent, who may have lived in Indonesia in the past.

"We've got the information that he did live in Indonesia from the Philippine police, which comes from the man himself . . . (and) we will now try to look into this very, very carefully," Saaf said.

The Indonesian investigation has been focusing on central Java, where there are strong historical Arab ties with the world's most populous Muslim country.

Singapore and Malaysia have arrested groups of alleged Islamic militants over the last month, linking them with al-Qaida and also saying they had cells in Indonesia.

Recent media reports have also speculated al-Qaida, blamed by the United States for the Sept. 11 attacks, is active among Indonesia's 210 million population, a charge Jakarta disputes.

A recent Canadian media report said a man of Arab descent believed to be the Jemaah Islamiya's ringleader was still on the run and had a Canadian passport. It named him as "Sanmy."

One of the aliases of al-Ghozi was "Sammy Salih Jamil." *With reports from AFP and Reuters*

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Pinays smuggle Bibles at great risk–report

HONG KONG—Filipino domestic helpers are risking arrest and severe punishment at the hands of Chinese authorities by smuggling Bibles into mainland China from Hong Kong, a report said Saturday.

The report comes after Li Guangqiang, a 38-year-old businessman and member of the Shouters, an evangelical group, was charged two weeks ago with propagating a "heretical cult."

Li was detained by police in May last year when he tried to transport 16,280 copies of the New Testament to Fuqing city in Fujian province.

It was the second time Li, who faces possible execution, had allegedly taken large quantities of the New Testament to China at the request of Shouters followers.

The Shouters are among the fastest-spreading underground churches in China with a reported 500,000 adherents.

The South China Morning Post quoted an unnamed Filipino domestic helper as saying she had been about to visit China with fellow members of a born-again Christian group before Christmas, taking five Bibles with her.

However, her employer stopped her from going when she heard of her plans.

The maid said she knew of several church members who had conducted similar excursions in the past.

A pastor at a born-again Christian group said he was firmly opposed to religious leaders asking domestic foreign workers to help in smuggling Bibles.

A spokesperson for the Philippine Association in Hong Kong said she did not know of any Filipino maid who was taking Bibles to China but noted there was little point in doing so as they were already being produced there.

"They are risking arrest and punishment by China if they do this. However, I do not personally see anything wrong with it but China is still closed off to religion," she said.

"But everybody has their own thoughts and if they feel strongly about their religion, then they feel they have to go," the spokesperson said.

China's atheist communist government only recognizes the major religions of the world and places them under strict control by the Bureau of Religious Affairs, which also has the power to locate and identify any "heretical" splinter groups. *AFP*

Condemned OFW gets royal pardon

THE OVERSEAS Filipino worker who was sentenced to death by a Shariah Court in Oman in 1999 is safely back at home with his loved ones after he was pardoned by the Sultan of Oman at the close of the holy month of Ramadan.

Sultan Qaboos of Oman granted Mohama Abdullah Angeles "royal clemency" at the end of Ramadan following the recommendation of a Special Supreme Shariah Committee to repatriate the condemned Filipino.

In a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippine Embassy in Muscat said the special Shariah committee was created by Sultan Qaboos specifically to review Angeles' case.

The Shariah Court had found Angeles guilty of murdering a coworker, an Indian national, and sentenced him to death in November 1999. The death sentence was affirmed by the Higher Court of Oman in October 2000.

The case was referred to Sultan Qaboos for his final decision.

Angeles was charged with murdering the Indian during a heated argument over money. The crime happened in the employees' quarters of the Al Watan Printing Co. in Muscat in April 1999.

Following Angeles' conviction by the Shariah Court, Saif filed an appeal with the Higher Court, which upheld the decision of the lower court.Pendosina N. Lomondot hailed the sultan's pardon of Angeles as a "dramatic demonstration of Oman's friendship with the Philippines."

Angeles returned to the Philippines last Monday. *Norman Bordadora*

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ERRATUM

The Union of Filipro Employees-Drug, Food and Allied Workers-Kilusang Mayo Uno notice which appeared in the Inquirer on January 18, 2002 on page A14 was a **paid advertisement.** The phrase **"paid advertisement" or "ADVT",** however, was inadvertently omitted from the ad.

MERON NG SOLUTION SA GRAFT & CORRUPTION!

Hindi na kailangan magpahula sa Bagong Taon. LUCKY PYRAMID + WISHING PLANT + FAITH IN GOD-Matutupad ang pangarap mo.

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WALA KA BANG PUHUNAN?
WALA KA BANG TRABAHO?
WALA RING PERA?
Gusto mong magka-trabaho at magkapera?
Makakatulong ako sa iyo.

BAWAL NA MAGTIPID AT MAGBADYET
NAIMBENTO NA ANG PAMPAYAMAN
Hindi anting-anting o magic
Yung walang pera, nagkakapera
Yung walang trabaho nagkakatrabaho
Yung hindi nananalo. laging nananalo
Sa BINGO, LOTTO, RAFFLE at iba pa.

BIGLANG-YAMAN DUMARAMI DAHIL SA PYRAMID

ENJOY GODS MIRACLES

MILYUN-MILYONG PREMYO HINAKOT NG PYRAMIID

Ano kayang meron sa mahiwagang papel na ito? PAPEL PAL LAMANG NAGKAKAPERA KA NA, ANO PA KAYA KUNG MAY PYRAMID KA NA...

ALAM BA NINYO...?
Alam ba ninyo na mahigit sa 75 na ang mga nanalo ng JACKPOT na NAKABILI KAY Engr. M.D. Centeno ng LUCKY PYRAMID at WISHING PLANT, ngunit ni isa ay walang bumulik para magpasalamat at magbalato. Gumaling ang kanilang Sakit sa Bulsa, sa iba namin nalaman na NANALO pala sila. Mabuti pa yung 10 ketongin na pinagaling ni Hesu Kristo, may isang bumalik upang magpasalamat. Mabuti pa yung mga NANALO ng kakaunting halaga lamang bumabalik sila upang magpasalamat at magpatotoo. Sa kanilang mga balato ay maraming natulungan upang maipaabot ang GAMOT sa SAKIT sa BULSA sa mahihirap. Bakit pag masamang balita madaling kumalat, pag magandang balita ayaw ikalat, ayaw-i-front page...

HINIPO LANG ANG PYRAMID...

April 2, '98 — Hinipo ko lang yung Pyramid na puti pagkaraan ng isang oras natanggap na agad ako sa Trabaho. Tatlong trabaho agad. Totoo ang Pyramid! ART SALES T. Sora Ave. Q.C. Tel: 932-5266

April 15, '98 — Hinipo ko lang yung Pyramid nagkataong nawawala ang aking anak kinagabihan nakita ko sa Cubao. Montalban Rizal

June 6, '98 — I touch the Pyramid for a minnute then my 1 wish come true for only 15 mins. there is quick response. Josie Bartiana

GAMOT SA SAKIT SA BULSA "NAIMBENTO NA"

LUCKY PYRAMID

PARA HINDI NA MAUBUSAN NG PERA

Gumamit ng Pampa- YAMAN "Gamot sa sakit sa Bulsa." Hindi kayo mauubusan ng PERA. Talagang Totoo Lalong Gumagastos, Lalong dumarating ang PERA. Walang Mawawala kung susubukan. YAYAMAN KA LANG

CONGRATS!!! Gov't. Employee Ricardo M. ng Cagayan de Oro, NANALO NG JACKPOT sa Bingo ng P50,000.00 ginupit lang ang ads sa DAILY INQUIRER kinabukasan NANALO, NAKABAYAD SA UTANG.

SAGOT SA KAHIRAPAN, NARITO NA!

LUMALAKAS ANG NEGOYO, NANALO NG APAT NA BESES SA BINGO SA LOOB NG 1 AARAW

NITONG nagdaang Pebrero 2001, isang ginang ng Lusiana Laguna ay nagpatotoo na lumalakas ang kanyang NEGOSYO. "ngayon mayroon na akong dalwang Truck, isang Besta Van at Honda type Z at Condo unit dahil sa Green Pyramid lumakas ang negosyo ko" Ayon sa kanya samantala, isang mag-asawa naman ng bayog Los Baños Laguna ang tumama ng apat na beses sa Bingo. "Isang lingo pagkabili naman ng Green at White Pyramid , Tumama kami ng apat na beses sa Bingo sa loob lamang ng isang araw (Feb. 27) sa Olivares Plaza, umabot sa P 54,500.00 ang panalo namin," pahayag ng mag-asawa.

*Pampa-TRABAHO
*Pampa-ABROAD
Panlaban sa SUGAL
para laging PANALO SA LOTTO, JAI ALAI, BINGO, ENDING, SWEEPTAKES atbp.

"PAGMABILIS KANG BUMILI MABILIS KANG MANALO"

CONGRATULATIONS!
▶Businesswoman from Cubao nanalo ng 8 million jackpot sa Lotto pagkabili ng wishing plant at LUCKY PYRAMID
▶2 beses nanalo ng Jackpot sa LOTTO empleyado ng QC Hall Mr. Ramon Briones (Nasa US na ngayon) nakabili ng White Pyramid W face of Jesus sa QC Hall (23 million)
▶Malutupad lahat ng pangarap mo Nagkapajero, Toyota Corolla XE, House & LOt Worth P2.5M at nagka-US Visa pagkabili ng GREEN LUCKY PYRAMID - Ellen G. (Mapayapa Village)

NANALO NG P100,00 SA BINGO Jan. 7, 2002 — I just cut hte ads from Philippine Daily Inquirer last Dec. 30, 2001 and put it inside my wallet. Immediately after 4 days, I won P100,000.00 jackpot in Bingo at Festival mall last January 3 2002. BALATO:P1,000 Thank you so much! Therese of San Pedro, Laguna

GINUPIT LANG SA FINDERS Dec. 25, 2001 — Since I started to cut the ads from the newspaper I inserted it from my checkbook, never I ever encountered hardly in funding all the checks I issued. My business prosper & I was able to go out frequently outside the country. I don't have yet a Pyramid & Wishing Plant but all the blessings comes very often. Note:For 1 month I can sell 1MILLION From: LYN N. Cubao, Q.C

GOOD LUCK SA NEGOSYO, TRABAHO, PAG-IBIG, SWERTE SA LOTTO, JAI-ALAI,BINGO ATBP.

LOTTO, BINGO, JAI-ALAI KARERA

LABANAN ang KAHIRAPAN LABANAN ang SUGAL

LIBRENG PATOK NA PATOK TIPS!

GOOD NEWS
BALITANG SWERTE TALAGA

Bumili ng 2 pyramid sa JC Herbal, kumita ng P10M sa loob ng 1 buwan, lumakas ang negosyo (Green & White Pyramid)
• Nakabili ng 2 bagong sasakyan (bibili pa ng 1 bago)
• Nakabili ng 1 condominium
• Nakabili ng shares sa Fantasy World, super yaman na talaga

Engr. MARGIE D. CENTENO
Young Inventor of the Year 1990
One of the 10 Most Outstanding Inventor 1993

TAGUMPAY!
Ang Experiment ni Engr. Margie D. Centeno na "PAMPA-YAMAN NA HALAMAN" Wishing Plant ay successful.

24 Oct. 2001 — Mga GRO sa 3 beerhouse sa Calamba nakagamit ng JC Miracle Soap pumuti raw ang kanilang singit, at kili-kili nawala ang peklat, kuminis ang balat, gumaling ang pimples nila at higit sa lahat bumalik ang kanilang ari sa pagkabirhen (pampa-virgin daw ang sabon na nabili sa JC Herbal Anos, Los Baños) -Ruth ng Malaking Bato Anos, Los Baños

PATOTOO NG NAKASUBOK
Pinahiram ko lang ang kapatid ko ng Lucky Pyramid na binili ko kay Engr. Margie Centeno ay nagkaroon na siya agad ng trabaho natanggap siya bilang secretary sa isang kompanya. Maraming salamat po Engr. Margie Centeno.
ALLAN BELILA Tandang Sora, Q.C

Policewoman at Police Investigator Yumaman! Hindi na nangongotong

Driver ng TRITAN Nanalo sa Jueteng P17,000 (14x35) sa Tip. Nagpapasalamat Engr. CENTENO sa BALATO: P500.00 Nanalo ulit sa Jueteng ng P17,000 (35x14) nagbalato ulit: P500.00

Congratulations! MS. MYRNA, empleyada ng House of Congress bumili ng Bagong Tiktik, ginupit ang ads na Lucky Pyramid. Bumili ng Wishing Plant sa JC Herbal, nanalo ng P24 million sa LOTTO

ISANG PAHID NG JC MIRACLE OIL GUMALING ANG UBO Aug. 8,2001 — Ako po si si Rufina P. Carpio nagpapatoto na gumaling ang aking ubo at pangangati ng aking lalamunan dahil sa Miracle oil. Ako po ay nagpahid ng Miracle Oil ako ay gumaling. Kaya ako ay nagbalik at kumuha uli ng Miracle Oil gagamitin ko rin sa aking mga anak. Rufina P. Carpio Bo. Dita Bay Laguna

Dec. 23, 2001 — Sumeksi ako sa Slimming Oil. Very effective talaga. Masaya ako ng Pasko dahil sumeksi ako. -Linda ng Calamba

Jan. 12, 2002 — Luminaw ang mata sa isang pahid ng Super-Eye/ Super Vision. -Anuciacion Bermudez ng Novaliches

Jan. 13, 2002 — Noong Dec. 10, 2001 bumili ako ng Pyramid dito sa Los Baños after 3 days nanalo ako sa Jueteng ng P3,500.00. Tapos January 10, 2001 nanalo ulit ako ng P7,000. BALATO-P100.00

Jan. 14, 2002 — To: Engr. Centeno, Thank you so much for giving me atip in Lotto. I won P1,960 and Casino for P6,000.00 same week I hope more blessing will come to you & your family for helping many people. BALATO: P500 Thanks, L. Nueva- Cubao, Q.C.

Jan. 14, 2002 — NANALO ako ng P17,000 sa ending (1-8) at sa sabong maraming beses na. BALATO: P300 Carmie Dulatre Calnta Rizal

Jan. 15, 2002 — Bumili ako ng LUCKY PYRAMID-GOLD, nanalo ako ng 1st Prize sa Raffle Ticket worth P2,000.00 Tapos nanalo naman ako sa 4 Digit worth P100.00. Salamat kay Engr. M. Centeno, Thak you Lord Jesus Christ. BALATO: P100 Irene Bicol, Albay (R-U)

Jan. 15, 2002 — TEXT 4 2DAY! Mam Margie, Maraming salamat talagang trabaho ang lumapit sa akin. Mag-aabroad na ko. Ako yung bumili ng Lucky Pyramid at Wishing Plant nung Friday Jan. 11, 02 Reynaldo

ATTY. PATERNO D. MENZON — Nanalo ang tatay ko ng 29" Sharp TV at Hanabishi Electric Fan sa Dalawang Hiwalay na lugar sa dalawang hiwalay na araw. Thank you to the Gold Pyramid, the P1,500.00 (as of 12/17/2001) Wishing Plant and to our Lord Jesus Christ. Edilberto Paulo B. Menzon (panganay na anak)

LOOK YOUNG HERBAL SOAP

• Makes you look younger 10-20 years
• Nagpapaputi ng singit, Kili-kili at "puwet"
• Nag-aalis ng pekas, Peklat, an-an
• Nagpapagaling ng Pimples (hindi ka na tutubuan ng pimples ulit)

FREE BIBLE — FOR LUCKY CUSTOMER

Oct. 23, 2001 — Noong May 1997, bumili ako ng maliit na Pyramid sa Harizon Plaza, dapat nanalo ako ng JACKPOT sa Lotto ng P3 Million hindi ko natayaan ang tip ni Engr. Centeno after 3 days lumabas. Nanghihinayang talaga ako! USAFINO C. TECSON Upper Bicutan, Taguig

Oct. 18, '97 — Nanalo ako sa Lotto ng 2 beses(P10,000 -P20 ang taya) "2 na ang kotse ko ngayon" 1 Nissan Sentra, 1 Toyota Corolla (brand new) REXTON L NADO 39 Evangelisa St. Q.C

CONGRATULATIONS! "TO LOTTO JACKPOT WINNER FROM BINONDO. MANILA. ANG BINILI NIYA AY WISHING PLANT"

JUDY BALLECERO (ESTUDYANTE) — NANALO NG JACKPOT SA LOTTO PAGKABILI NG GOLD PYRAMID NOONG 1997 SA IBETAN RECTO EXHIBIT NAKABILI NG HOUSE & LOT SA CEBU DATING NANGUNGUPAHAN SA CUBAO. -JULIUS (KABIGAN)

OTHER HERBAL PRODUCTS

RICH HAIR – Pampa-TUBO ng BUHOK 1 week at	P650-1300
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SLIMMING OIL	P450 only
DIA-B-TEA No. 1 Cure for Diabetes	P300 only
LOVE MATE PAMPALIGAYA NG MAG-ASAWA	P600 only
HERBAL SOAP	P150 only

Last Money ibinili ng Lucky Pyramid

NANALO SA UNIWIDE RAFFLE NG TAMARAW FX 25 April '97 — Mrs. Uy bumili sa Grand Central Monumento ng Fortune Pyramid, Nanalo sa Uniwide Pamaskong Handog RAFFLE ng TAMARAW FX. --ooOoo--

NANALO SA RAFFLE HOUSE AND LOT 19 Aug. '97 — Dear Margie, Nanalo ako ng House & Lot. Raffle ng Bahay Add. Ma. Ruby B. San Isidro St. Cotabato City

CONGRATULATIONS! Oct 27, 2001 — NANALO po sa LOTTO taga-PALAWAN siya po ang nagbalita sa aking parent dahil sa PYRAMID na binili niya sa Los Baños. Kaya kami rin ay nagsusumikap na makabili rin ng Pyramid para makabayad kami ng aming pagkakautang siya raw ay gumandaang business dahil sa PyramidOct 27, 2001 C.B.V Blk.10 Lt.19 Banaba St., Imus Cavite Cel. 09198253222

GOOD LUCK sa Negosyo, Trabaho, Pag-ibig, Swerte sa LOTTO, JAI-ALAI, BINGO ATBP.

Hindi Anting-anting, o Magic. Yung walang trabaho, nagka-katrabaho, Yung di nananalo. laging nananalo sa BINGO, LOTTO, RAFFLE at iba pa.

100 x NANALO SA Bingo. Engr. Centeno Very Effective ang WISHING PLANT & RED & WHITE PYRAMID

*Businesswoman from Cubao bumili ng Wishing Plant at Lucky Pyramid nanalo ng Lotto Jackpot P8million

Mabibili rin: WISHING PLANT (PAMPAUNLAD NG BUHAY) PYRAMID with wishing plant (3000 + 80)

PRICE: LUCKY PYRAMID P5,000-P20,000 GOLD PYRAMID P2,000- P5,000 WISHING PLANT P600 - P2,000

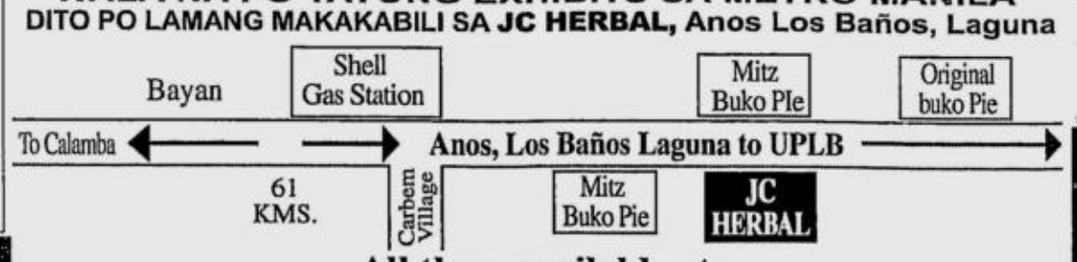
BIBLE MESSAGE for today: Let us give thanks to the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom help comes! He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have recieved from God. 2 Cor. 1:3,4

NAGKA-P50 MILLION at NAGKA-BAHAY (P500,000!) — Bumili ako ng maliit lang na Pyramid tuloy-tuloy ang benta ko sa Jardine Land. Nag-top ako, Umabot ako sa P50M. In one year marami akong AWARD na natanggap. Syempre kasama ang dasal. Nagpa-aral ko ang mga anak ko sa College. -Lynna

NOTE: Hindi po nagpapayaman ang may-ari ng Lucky Pyramid, Tumutulong lang po sa Kapwa. Yung mga binabayad nyo, ibinabayad namin sa Ads para maikalat po sa mga nangangailangan

RICH HAIR GROWER
ONE WEEK LANG TUTUBUAN KA NA NG BUHOK, EFFECTIVE AT GARANTISADO DAHIL TOTOO! WITH NO SIDE EFFECTS. SUBUKAN NG MAPATUNAYAN.
ROLLY PANGILINAN - Milanin, Pampanga

WALA NA PO TAYONG EXHIBITS SA METRO MANILA
DITO PO LAMANG MAKAKABILI SA JC HERBAL, Anos Los Baños, Laguna



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Get ready for 2005, Roxas urges textile folk

TRADE Secretary Mar Roxas has reiterated to representatives of the garments and textile industry the urgency of developing a transition plan ahead of the expiration of the US textile quota system in 2005.

Roxas enjoined industry members at a meeting last week to actively participate in formulating the transition plan, which he said must be completed by the end of the month.

Developments in the US and other major markets, Roxas said, are threatening the viability of the local garments industry.

He admonished industry members not to be complacent, but view the end of the quota system "as one wide precipice that must be hurdled in an organized manner."

"Our responsibility at the DTI and the Garments and Textile Export Board (GTEB) is to ensure that the garments industry remains viable even after the US quota system expires," Roxas said.

By 2005, the US will lift restrictions on the entry of foreign-made garments to its market. US buyers will be free to source garments from any country.

At the meeting, Roxas assured the textile exporters the government, through the DTI and GTEB, was willing to review existing policies and procedures, including the lowering or removal of certain fees.

Media men to be asked about Baron

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE SOUTHERN Police District is set to call 11 more persons, including four media men, to shed light on the murder of self-proclaimed Young Officers Union spokesperson and Army captain Baron Cervantes.

SPD director Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez said that aside from the media men, five policemen and two soldiers would be questioned in connection with Cervantes' killing on New Year's Eve in Las Piñas City.

Interviews with the 11 would start Monday morning, Gutierrez said, declining to identify the witnesses.

A source at the SPD, however, identified the four media men as George Bandola of dzBB radio; Richard Rivera, formerly of RPN 9 television; Magal Montealegre of radio station dzMM, and Honesto Heneral, said to be a columnist.

Bandola, vice president of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Press Corps, told colleagues he is willing to appear at the SPD for questioning.

"My association with Cervantes was on a purely professional level. Most likely the (SPD) would ask about our last conversation," Bandola said.

Minority wants changes in Senate panel's numbers

OPPOSITION senators want parity of representation in the Senate ethics committee to prevent investigations of any Senate member ending in a whitewash.

The seven-member committee is composed of four majority members and three from the minority.

The minority senators said equal representation would enhance the effectiveness of the committee as a watchdog over "matters relating to the conduct, rights, privileges, safety, dignity, integrity and reputation of the Senate and its members."

The motion was contained in the 40-page dissenting opinion on the committee report on the case of influence peddling against Sen. Renato Cayetano.

Crispin Remulla, spokesperson of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, had accused Cayetano of obtaining BW Resources shares allegedly without paying for it.

Minority leader Aquilino Pimentel and the minority members in the ethics committee, Sen. Blas Ople, Vicente Sotto III and Robert Jaworski, signed the motion.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Francisco Pangilinan with Sen. Joker Arroyo as co-chair, cleared Cayetano in its majority report which will soon be submitted to the Senate floor for deliberations and approval.

The minority urged the Senate to reverse the committee's report on the case on the ground that it had prematurely cleared Cayetano and "thwarted the truth."

The opposition senators said the ethics committee should be non-partisan in discharging its duties and its membership should not be based on party affiliation.

Pimentel noted that equal committee representation was the rule in the United States Congress. *Cynthia Balana*

MAMAMAYAN MUNA

Warning out on return of El Niño

THE COUNTRY must once again prepare for the possibility of the weather phenomenon known as El Niño would return this year.

Senate president pro-tempore Manny Villar aired the warning after international scientists said El Niño could develop between April and July this year.

El Niño is a massive climatic event that causes sustained warming of a large part of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. It originates in South America and could cause extreme drought in the Philippines, northern Australia and Indonesia, as well as increased rainfall in the east central and eastern Pacific.

"All necessary steps must be taken to cushion the impact of a possible dry spell on our farmers," Villar said.

Villar, chair of the Senate committee on food and agriculture, said the government must not allow El Niño to negate the gains made by the agriculture sector in the past two years.

"We must keep up the momentum and sustain the sector's growth and one of the steps we must take is to anticipate the effects of El Niño so that we are prepared," Villar said.

"As we will be expecting a dry spell," he said, "the repair, rehabilitation and construction of irrigation facilities must be fast tracked."

He warned that if appropriate steps are not taken, El Niño could have an adverse effect on agricultural sector. In 1997-1998, the phenomenon was blamed for dry spells in the country.

"Government efforts should be geared toward cushioning the adverse effects of El Niño on the agricultural sector and the small farmers," Villar said.

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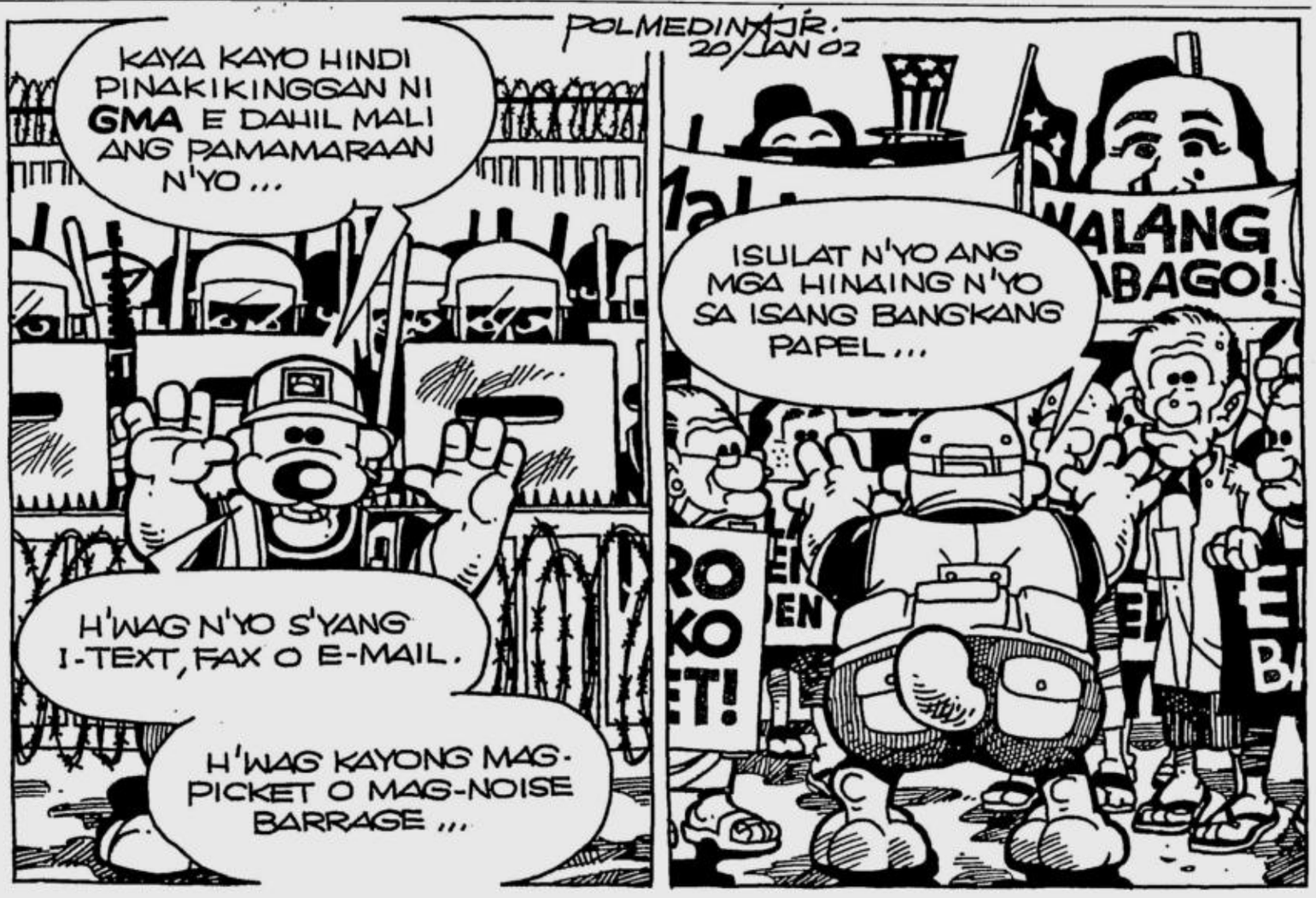

A celebration

THE PROPOSAL of some senators, that the country "commemorate" today's anniversary of Edsa II rather than "celebrate" it, is well-meaning but wrong. We owe it to ourselves, and to history itself, to mark the second coming of People Power as the democratic milestone it truly is.

The suggestion that we douse cold water on the event, so to speak, to dull the sense of divisiveness that still cuts across the nation like a fallen Damoclean blade, is based on two mistaken assumptions: that the national interest always requires the playing down of differences, and that all national victories must be unambiguous.

EDITORIALS

Let us be clear: Edsa II was a victory for the nation. It delivered us from a President who had lost the political capacity to rule and the moral legitimacy to lead. And it delivered us through a process that was consistent with our constitutional powers as a sovereign people.

This is not to say that the victory was not without ambiguity. But—we must hasten to add—it is the kind of ambiguity that comes with success. Defeat, we have always known, is an orphan. But victory of the People Power kind, we learn all over again, has a million fathers.

Thus, almost right from the start, we have had to endure the spectacle of various groups, beginning with the Council on Philippine Affairs, claiming credit for the People Power phenomenon. These groups fill almost every color in the political spectrum—and there are even some, such as the People's Consultative Assembly, whose ultraviolet rays only register on the special spectroscope of obliging media outlets.

The unsettled nature of Edsa II seems to be further reflected in the post-Edsa careers of certain personalities: the Senate president who held the microphone for the new President's oath-taking, for instance, is now the leader, at least on paper, of the opposition; one of the original "*balato* twins," who conducted themselves during the *jueteng* hearings and then the impeachment trial in less than exemplary ways, is now a mainstay of the new administration coalition. And so on, ad nauseam.

But we ought to know better than to confuse political happenstance—or ambition—with the reality of People Power. The reality is, a year ago the people gathered in the country's streets and especially before the Edsa Shrine to demand that the nation's leaders act according to the highest dictates of both Constitution and conscience. That was all. But that, as history proved, was more than enough. In the case of Joseph Estrada, the highest dictates meant resignation from an office he had disgraced and from which he could no longer effectively govern. If, in spite of Cabinet defections and the lack of military support, he had decided to hang on, he could have done so. He would have heightened the political crisis, thrown the country into chaos and caused an economic collapse. That he did not, that he chose instead to leave Malacañang—a resignation to everyone except his lawyers—is the surest proof that, more than anything, Edsa II was a moral uprising. In the end, even Estrada found it necessary to do the right thing.

A hundred years ago, Apolinario Mabini taught us that power is by definition moral: it is a means for doing good. After incontrovertible evidence of presidential corruption and cupidity was shown, and then the brazen power play in the Senate, Edsa II broke upon an outraged, long-suffering people like Mabini's revenge.

A mandate

THAT the accession of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency remains "divisive" is only to be expected, if by divisive we mean continuing criticism from certain sectors. No president—not even Ramon Magsaysay, who had the largest electoral mandate in our history, and certainly not Estrada, a popular actor who won only a plurality—can hope to govern with 100-percent support. Why should we expect more from Ms Macapagal? "Divisiveness," therefore, is no reason for the government to soft-pedal the observance of the first Edsa II anniversary. Indeed, if it were to do so, it would only encourage political adventurers to try and stage an Edsa III.

Let us be even more clear: It is important to "celebrate" Edsa II, rather than merely "commemorate" it, because only by celebrating it as the unique confluence of historical events that it is can we make political opportunists appreciate the essential fact: People Power cannot be summoned at will. It cannot be bought, it cannot be bribed. Above all, it cannot be "press-released" into existence.

Edsa defiled

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I HAD lunch recently with some friends—Raul Contreras, Mario Ongkiko, Dean de la Paz and Nandy Pacheco (his treat)—and discussed, as concerned citizens, the current political situation in our country. Our conversation focused on the two past people power demonstrations that have celebrated our nation throughout the world for asserting our freedom against abusive rulers.

Edsa I was hailed as a legitimate uprising of the people against the excesses of Ferdinand Marcos during more than 13 intolerable years of despotic misrule. Edsa II was also received with universal approbation for deposing Joseph Estrada, a loyal follower and emulator of Marcos who may have exceeded his model in debasing his high office.

The significant fact that both political upheavals were effected without bloodshed made them especially praiseworthy. There was a minimum of violence in both historic events that emphasized the level-headedness of our people in resisting tyranny. Despite the well-nigh unbearable oppressions of the hated regimes, we still eschewed the threat or force of arms and mayhem. We relied instead on our freedom of expression and assembly as our most formidable weapon of peaceful protest.

The next demonstration that followed last May cannot be considered another people power movement. It was obvious from the start that it was not a spontaneous uprising like Edsa I and Edsa II. This one was clearly a devious conspiracy led by shadowy figures plotting to destabilize the new government for their own sinister purposes. The ultimate objective of this cabal was to restore the Estrada regime (with them as its accustomed satraps) that had been deposed in an eruption of popular fury against its abuses.

Edsa II was sparked by the infamous session in the Senate where the majority of its members successfully prevented the disclosure of damning evidence against Estrada. It could have indubitably established him as a crook of plunder dimensions. The cowardice of that servile vote transferred the impeachment trial from that tractable chamber to the court of the people at Edsa. Edsa II forced the exposed respondent to abandon Malacañang rather than face the people's mounting rage.

By contrast, what is foolishly sought to be dignified as Edsa III was motivated not by an alleged loyalty to Erap as the supposed champion of the masses. Estrada was only the apparent but only incidental cause of that disorder. The people who attacked Malacañang on May 1 last year were a motley mob fueled by cash, drugs and gin intended to make them run berserk. Their crafty leaders later distanced themselves from their mindless followers when the authorities closed in.

The participants in Edsa I and Edsa II included not only political figures but also citizens from all walks of life bonded by a common disgust over official cynicism and corruption. Students and teachers, professionals and laborers, housewives with their children, big and small businessmen, priests and nuns along with religious pretenders, the thinking and disenchanted masses, and other outraged Filipinos, joined in the widespread demand for the disgraced idol to step down.

What little violence attended Edsa I was not its cause but its aftermath. The exuberance did not cry for vengeance (as the culprit Marcos clan and cronies had fled) but only exhibited the nationwide euphoria over the end of the despised dictatorship. There was little unruliness either in Edsa II because Estrada wisely chose not to risk his summary execution by standing fast in Malacañang like an improbable Davy Crockett defying death at the Alamo.

By contrast, what can only be derisively called Edsa III did not have the redeeming quality of legitimate anger. It was first and last a mob action whose leaders goaded their followers with promises of worldly goodies only to cravenly desert them later. Left to their own resources, they resorted to mindless rampaging, injuring lawmen, burning property, overturning vehicles, smashing store windows (even outside the scene of battle), and generally running riot out of sheer depravity and vandalism.

That shameful event happened almost a year ago, but its leaders, notably the more visible VIPs insolently immune from government strictures, have not been arrested and prosecuted. The ordinary perpetrators of the orgy have been forgiven by an administration hesitant to offend the rabble whose electoral support it will need in 2004. The police are reportedly still hunting a known organizer of that unrest who has openly eluded arrest so far. Probably they have not been looking for him hard enough, if at all.

And now there's talk of what its plotters would self-importantly call Edsa IV. There seems to be no end to all this foolishness.

In an earlier column, I warned that we should not squander Edsa II the way we have squandered Edsa I. It appears we have thoughtlessly wasted it too. The consensus we reached at our exchange of views was that the only good effect of Edsa I and Edsa II was the ouster of Marcos and Estrada respectively. Little has changed since then, and pretty much the same problems are still with us, if indeed they have not even aggravated.

There is no need to recite the litany of the old maladies that continue to afflict our country, let alone the new ones like the uncollected garbage and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's premature politicking at public expense. Marcos' ugly stone visage in La Union still waits to be blasted, and Estrada is enjoying comfortable detention quarters while his lawyers delay his trial and conviction.

So what else is new?

The least and the last

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEONE said that infants do not have as much fun in infancy as adults do in adultery! The fact is that children in general are the last and the least in our society.

In today's Gospel (Mt. 18, 1-15.10), Jesus underlines the greatness of children. He urges us adults to emulate the humility of a child, and warns us not to despise the little ones because they have angels in heaven who always look upon the face of the Father. In other words, in God's eyes, every child is important. We adults should treat them likewise.

* * *

A child was asked once what adultery was, and his answer was, "Adultery…is the sin of adults." More than the sin of adultery our greater sin as adults is that we adulterate life itself.

Let us learn from the children. When we make life complicated, let the children remind us to be simple once again. When life is difficult, let the children remind us to trust. When we are unhappy or sad, let the children remind us of contentment and the simple joys of life. And when we are angry or proud, let the children remind us of humility, forgiveness and love.

Don't you wish sometimes that children would never grow up to be like us? That is wishful thinking. By all means, let them grow up and let us all grow up, but without forgetting the beautiful and simple ways of a child.

* * *

My heart cries every time I see a child working or begging just to stay alive. My heart cries every time I see a child hurt or being shouted at. My heart cries every time I hear about parents who use and abuse their children, parents who neglect or altogether abandon their children.

There are so many instances when the little ones suffer and cry. Does your heart still cry? Have you forgotten what it is like to be a child—so helpless, so full of expectations and trust, so full of dreams, spontaneity and life? Take a look at a child today. Embrace a child today, and be reminded again.

* * *

"Whoever receives one such child as this in My name receives Me."

Listen to the Lord thanking you parents who have brought forth and raised children in this world. Likewise, listen to the Lord's words, you who are thinking of aborting babies or have aborted babies. It is the Lord whom you receive or abort. The child in the womb is so fragile and helpless. Who will speak for him/her? Who will defend her/him?

When a killing happens anywhere in the world, the media are there to cover it. Thousands are killed in the womb every day. This very moment a fetus is being crushed, a living baby is being murdered, and no one is speaking up for its rights.

Parents and would-be parents, God is literally placing that baby's life in your hands. Doctors and abortionists, do not, repeat, do not take a life away with your hands.

* * *

Life is a stage, so they say, and we all have our entrance and our exit. The problem with some parents is that they do not know how and when to exit. There are some parents who refuse to yield the center stage, and so their children never have the chance to do their act in this life. And there are parents who continue to coach and manage their children's lives down to their deathbeds. Remember that you don't own your children. They are God's more than they are yours. Handle them with care and with much love, real enhancing love.

* * *

How to handle children? Handle your children as you would handle chopsticks. Neither too loose nor too tight. Too loose, they fall apart; too tight, they become prisoners of love. Hold them just right. ***Katamtaman lang.*** **How? You'll need a lot of instructions from the Lord in prayer to be able to do just that.**

* * *

Jan. 21-27 is National Bible Week. The word of God is our sure light and guide in this life. Parents, long after you are gone, your children will be in good hands if you have taught them to rely on God's word, and not to your own or their own understanding. Do you have a Bible in your home? Do you read the Bible together? Remember, the family that Bibles together, grows together.

* * *

How did I land on the front page of the Philippine Daily Inquirer last Jan. 15? Upon the invitation of PNP Director Gen. Leandro Mendoza through Chief Supt. Freddie de Vera, I gave a pep talk to the rank and file of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the Police Community Relations Group (PCRG). The child in me wanted to leave something simple and clear, so I removed my ***barong,*** **exposing my T-shirt that had "I LOVE NYPD" printed on it and told them how many people in the United States were proudly wearing them especially after the Sept. 11 incident. I ended my talk with the challenge and hope that someday soon Filipinos too will proudly wear "I LOVE PNP" T-shirts. An INQUIRER reporter was there to cover and shoot the event, and, the rest is history.**

The challenge goes beyond the PNP, to adults like you and me to shape up, and help make a better world for the children, the least and the last in our society.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, let the least and the last find a home and a refuge in me. Amen.

One hazardous footnote

COMMENTARY

Victor Peñaranda

By insisting on the footnote, the EMB legitimized smuggling of ODS

BECAUSE of a footnote, the implementation of the Montreal Protocol by the Philippines is in jeopardy.

The protocol is one of the less-known but very potent instruments of the international community to prevent further depletion of the ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere. The treaty was ratified in 1991 by 167 nations, including the Philippines. The ozone layer provides a protective shield from intense and damaging ultraviolet rays from the sun, but it has been seriously disturbed due to extensive release of commercial gases or substances into the atmosphere.

These Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS), including chloro-fluorocarbons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform and halons, are commonly used as cleaning solvents and as cooling agents for refrigeration or air conditioning. Some communities in South America have been affected by strong ultraviolet radiation coming from the "hole in the sky." Reports indicate an increasing incidence of skin cancer and eye cataracts. Studies being done in Antarctica also reveal disruption of its climate structure with precarious implications on global ecosystems.

Until the footnote came into existence, the Philippine government had been diligently enforcing the protocol. As one of the developing countries with an annual per capita consumption of 0.3 kilograms or less of ODS, the Philippines is committed to phase out the import and use of these harmful gases by 2010. The Philippines, based on a country program, qualified and received a financial grant of $25 million to effect the phased reduction. The assistance was sourced from a multilateral fund jointly managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environmental Programme (Unep), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Unido) and the World Bank.

In 1997, the Philippines gained recognition for its work. It was presented with the Outstanding National Ozone Unit Award by the Unep and the leadership in the phaseout of ODS in the Solvent Sector Award by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Philippines seemed well on its way to making a solid contribution in conserving the earth until a footnote, in fine print, was inserted into an administrative order of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Feb. 23, 2000.

Because of its technical significance, the document is also known as the Chemical Control Order (CCO). It provides the guidelines on how the systematic phaseout of ODS will be implemented. Since the Philippines does not manufacture ODS, the CCO was meant to enforce the regulated cuts in imports of the harmful gases.

However, a footnote was added. It justified a 75-percent increase in the volume of ODS. The footnote stated that the figures used in computing the baseline of ODS importation were underestimated and, therefore, inaccurate. Specifically it said: "The 1996 levels were only estimated consumption based on available data. An allowance of 75 percent is added to consider unaccounted imports."

In real terms, this means an increase of 1,330.43 metric tons of ODS imports in 2000 and having a higher baseline level for determining the import cuts over the next 10 years. The Philippines would then be importing more ODS during a period when it should have effectively reduced supply, as agreed upon in the protocol.

The former head of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the DENR claimed responsibility for the footnote. He didn't have sufficient data to alter the 1996 baseline, but insisted that importation of ODS was higher than estimated because of rampant smuggling. The footnote was intended to have a more accurate approximation of import flow, but couldn't support such contention. By insisting on the footnote, the EMB legitimized the smuggling of ODS.

Reactions from the multilateral partners were direct and clear. The World Bank through its country representative, Robert Vance Pulley, said: "It is our view that increasing imports by 75 percent over the 1996 baseline consumption data as stated in the said footnote is technically a contradiction of the Montreal Protocol." The Stockholm Environmental Institute advised the DENR to stick to its "loyal obligation" under the protocol.

The new DENR secretary, Heherson Alvarez, has sacked the EMB head for his indiscretion. But the bigger task remains: how to rescind the footnote and to stop the process of increased importation that has been put into motion.

One also begins to wonder how many of these insidious footnotes have wormed their way into the vital organs of government. How many public servants have devised deceptive ways of subverting government accountability to the Filipino people and the international community, and got away with it?

Victor Peñaranda is a former journalist who is now working for a non-government organization that is concerned with preserving the environment.

Roots of People Power

COMMENTARY

Sean V. Bigay

ONE year ago, the impeachment of Joseph Estrada collapsed over the issue of opening the now infamous second envelope. The refusal of Estrada's supporters in the Senate to admit this obviously damaging piece of evidence sent thousands of Filipinos into the streets in what quickly became a spontaneous replay of the Edsa Revolution of 1986, culminating with Estrada following Ferdinand Marcos into forced retirement and ignominy.

But the glory of "Edsa Dos" was eclipsed three months later, when Estrada's loyalists responded to his arrest for the charge of economic plunder by massing at the Edsa Shrine for what they insisted on calling "Edsa Tres," the third People Power revolt. Many stoutly deny that what ensued was real People Power, and in fact the massive pro-Estrada crowd degenerated into an ugly mob that tried, but failed, to take Malacañang by storm.

Edsa Tres (if we may call it thus, for convenience's sake) brought as much dishonor to the Philippines as Edsa Dos did glory. But what other, more crucial difference was there between them? What made Edsa Dos a genuine display of People Power and Edsa Tres a travesty thereof?

It takes more than a vast throng of placard-waving people shouting their indignation in the streets to make People Power. Indeed, loath as we may be to admit it, both Edsa I and II owed their success as much to the behind-the-scenes machinations of disgruntled senators, generals and other movers and shakers as to the thousands of ordinary folks who rallied to the cause. It was due to such covert maneuvers that our armed forces were induced to stay their hand and join both uprisings instead of dispersing the crowds at the incumbent regime's behest. Still it cannot be denied that these covert movers would never have maneuvered like they did had they not shared the outrage that triggered the protest rallies.

It is clear that the first important element in a true People Power uprising is this shared outrage, which builds up as a crisis worsens until one wrong move triggers an eruption in the streets. The key word here is "eruption." People Power cannot be planned; it just happens. The protesters burst forth, Church and business throw their support behind them, and the army refuses to rein them in—all of them animated by the shared feeling that the regime has betrayed their trust and has outworn its mandate.

And yet, given so potent a brew, what results is anything but a bloodbath. Marcos and Estrada were simply whisked away to safety. In the Soviet Union in August 1991, the idiotic Gang of Eight escaped with their lives after their putsch collapsed and the Soviet Union imploded in August 1991 while people danced through the streets of Moscow in their own version of People Power.

What turns a potentially bloody popular uprising into the modern-day miracle called People Power? Science fiction guru Arthur C. Clarke put his finger on one aspect of it when he said that the Edsa Revolution of 1986 demonstrated that people would comport themselves with decency and humanity, even amid the stresses of a popular revolt, when they know the eyes of the world are upon them. In fact, all known examples of real People Power did take place under the watchful eye of the news media. The failed Tiananmen Square uprising of 1989 proves the point: first, Chinese authorities muzzled the media, and then they cleared the square, to their own everlasting shame.

But what about Edsa Tres, which also took place under the eye of the media, but quickly degenerated into a riot?

Time correspondent Anthony Spaeth enraged many Filipino pundits when he called the crowds at Edsa Dos the nicest mob he'd ever seen. I doubt if he meant any harm, even if he was confusing People Power with mere mob rule. But he was right about one thing: everybody was nice. Never were so many people with such heavy grievances so companionably gathered in one spot. Edsa Dos looked less like a protest than a picnic.

But had Spaeth been there at Edsa Tres, he would have learned the difference between People Power and mob rule, for Edsa Tres was a mob—and an ugly one at that. Several local TV crews nearly did get lynched, and some policemen were mauled within an inch of their lives when the mob charged at Malacañang.

There lies the fundamental difference between Edsa Dos and Tres, for while people came to both to vent their grievances, at Edsa Dos they weren't out to hurt anyone.

People Power is not as new as we Filipinos sometimes think. It has an illustrious history, and the man who has the best claim to inventing it was one of the greatest who ever walked this earth. The beginnings of this idea came to him as he read John Ruskin on the train from Johannesburg to Durban, one evening in 1904. Between Ruskin, Henry David Thoreau, the Bible and the great touchstone of his native faith, the Bhagavad-Gita, he came to the resolution that would shape the rest of his life: to free his people from white domination, not by force of arms, but by "melt[ing] their enemies' hearts with self-suffering." Mahatma Gandhi would surely have recognized, and approved, of the two applications of his *satyagraha* that were Edsa I and II, and by the same token he would have frowned at the mess that was Edsa Tres.

But then, Gandhi might also have disapproved of the name we gave those two glorious events. For *satyagraha*, his guiding principle of nonviolent protest, means not People Power but truth power, and it is as vulnerable—and limited—as it is potent. *Satyagraha* relies on the proposition that the truth will set you free. It turns Christ's admonition to turn the other cheek into a tool of political protest: "I will not lift a finger against you, and you can do whatever you want with me, but nothing you do can compel me to obey a law and a regime I consider to be unjust." And it trusts that eventually, after dishing out his worst, one's opponent will see the light and give up a position he himself now sees to be unjust.

Satyagraha works well against a liberal democracy or a regime whose own enforcers are sick of it, like the armed forces of the Philippines in 1986 and 2001, or of Russia in 1991. But it didn't work at Tiananmen Square in 1989, because the Chinese Army valued the preservation of the Communist Party's authority over the freedom of the Chinese people. And despite what Gandhi believed, it would never have worked against Nazi Germany. For *satyagraha's* strength is also its weakness: in seeking to melt the enemy's heart, it first assumes he has one. It is useless against someone as heartless as the Nazis. And it is worse than useless when one tries to use it as a tool of everyday, partisan politics. Truth power only works when everyone recognizes the same truth. When it comes to reconciling different truths—such as when a strike-bound company tries to reconcile its employees' reasonable demand for a wage increase with its own imperative to survive—truth power has no useful role to play.

Satyagraha is a weapon of last resort, the last desperate cry of a civil society before it plunges into outright rebellion. *Satyagraha* can be planned, but People Power must burst forth on its own; but neither can be invoked where the arbitrage and compromise of everyday politics ought to supervene. Great damage was done to People Power at Edsa Tres; from now on, any appeal to People Power could be interpreted as a call to mob rule.

Sean V. Bigay is a freelance journalist.

Celebrating being Pinoy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF you thought the book "Pinoy Pop Culture" was just a silly paean to all things "Pinoy pop" or *bakya, baduy, jologs* or whatever is the derogatory term of the moment, just take note of what it has to say about the "People Power II" event:

"Being Filipino was interesting to observe during People Power II. Patient to the extreme, the Pinoy knew exactly when the borderline had been reached. It was the unopened envelope. The finely tuned Pinoy sensibility shifted, in a lightning flash, from sufferance to active resistance.

"Texting, whose use had heretofore been to transmit silly conversations, became the tool for a call to people power. With a singleness of purpose and without any defined leader, people just poured and poured into the protest spot. The Pinoy may seem carefree and flighty, but s(he) certainly knows the parameters of what s(he) accepts or rejects. And this applies not just to civil liberties but to what s(he) will or will not wear, eat, listen to or use."

This is yet, for me, but the most succinct and accurate description of what took place on those three days last year, events which to this day are still hotly debated and over which so much angst and analysis have been applied.

"People Power II" was but the Pinoy reaching the limits of tolerance and forbearance, and by its very spontaneity defined its being Pinoy. Even those in the thick of the anti-Erap protests, who talked long and hard into the night about how to arouse popular anger against a popular President, confess that they were caught off-guard by the instant public reaction to the Senate "No" vote. Leaderless, clueless, but sensing cues from anonymous text messages and collective will, the Pinoys of "People Power II" were Pinoys at their best.

* * *

THIS, too, is what the book "Pinoy Pop Culture" is all about: the Pinoy at his/her best. And it helps a lot that the book is a visual treat, too.

From its polka-dot cover art, to the mass of opaque cigarette lighters that is a visual statement on the Pinoy love of color, "Pinoy Pop Culture" is a celebration of the excesses of Pinoy pop. It celebrates the Pinoy's ability to take foreign objects, food, music and even technology and adapt and reuse them to suit uniquely Pinoy tastes, needs, requirements and just plain love for *borloloy*. We can't seem to leave well enough alone, and so must reconfigure even the flavors of hamburger and spaghetti and in the process beat the world's dominant burger-maker at its own game.

All her life, it seems, Gilda Cordero-Fernando (who with M.G. Chaves and Ben Chan of Bench conceptualized "Pinoy Pop Culture") has devoted her talents to celebrating what it means to be Pinoy. Through her coffee-table books on turn-of-the-century Philippines, on Filipino cuisine, on Filipino history and culture, she has cultivated popular interest in our past and in its lessons and artifacts. All to one end: to make Filipinos proud of being Filipinos.

Or in the context of middle-class (*burgis*) Filipino society, to make Filipinos want to be Filipinos, and not diminutive, brown-skinned copies of Americans, British or even Japanese or Singaporeans.

* * *

WELL, "Pinoy Pop Culture" should do it. It is a fun read, eye candy to the max, filled with outlandish photo compositions, nostalgic stills that hark back to the time when we were not so finicky about what a friend calls our "*batya at palo-palo*" mentality, and best of all, short, pithy compositions on what makes Pinoys uniquely Pinoy.

What does it mean to be Pinoy, or to be pop Pinoy? It is to love sweet spaghetti sauce and spicy hamburgers. It is to give in to the itch to decorate every spare millimeter on our jeepneys and houses. It is to be swallowed up in the throes of unrequited love, especially that expressed in song. And a Pinoy love song, the authors note in a bit of uncanny analysis, becomes a pop hit on our shores only if it echoes the long drawn-out notes and delivery of the *pasyon*.

Why should we be proud of being Pinoy? Because it means we are among the most resilient and innovative people on the planet. We convert sewing machines into cotton-candy makers, tractors into "skylabs," amazing contraptions that are a wonder of balance and daring. Because we are, as a rule, a communal people, who reach out to strangers and strive to make them part of the family.

And if it still takes us some doing to get in touch with our "pop Pinoy" side, then that should be the biggest reason for going to the nearest Bench outlet and picking up a copy of "Pinoy Pop Culture."

* * *

ONE of the greatest blessings of traveling to other parts of the country is the chance it affords one to keep in touch with friends old and new.

This column is being written in Iloilo, as I am taking part in a workshop of media participants sponsored by the Philippine NGO Council (PNGOC). On this trip, though, I had the chance to touch base with Msgr. Gene Velarde, parish priest of the Parish of San Vicente Ferrer in Leganes, a town just on the outskirts of the city.

Monsignor Gene is a friend from way, way back, from the days when I was employed by the Archdiocese of Manila (would you believe?) and he served as one of two secretaries of Jaime Cardinal Sin. We have both grown in years and, unfortunately for me but not him, in girth, but two things remain constant, it seems: a love for good food and for good margarita.

Thus it was that we spent a pleasant evening dining on seafood with his assistant, Fr. Roy Bretana (who is the same age as my son, sob!), and his parish staff. Thanks for the good food, Monsignor Gene, and for this chance to relive again memories of a more innocent and carefree time. Till the next visit!

Edsa II in retrospect

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

EDSA II was the culmination of a movement to restore accountability and idealism in government. Its constituents were the young, the middle class and the educated who refused to be led any further by an inept, corrupt and archaic president. While its actions were political, it rode on the wave of a general contempt for traditional politicians.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was neither the icon nor the leader of this movement. She was its beneficiary. The presidency fell on her lap by virtue of a constitutional provision. She could have made the Edsa II constituency her own had she been more mindful of the big picture in which she was being made to play a role. But though her rhetoric implied an acceptance of the mandate that was thrust into her hands, she allowed herself to be pulled back into the familiar compromises of traditional politics. There is not a single issue on which one can say she drew the line and was willing to risk her presidency.

As a result, we have a President without a clear constituency, and an amorphous reform movement without a visible leader.

Of president we tend to expect much. We want them to be the embodiment of our noblest traits and highest aspirations. We imagine them to be the incarnation of the best that we can be, magical beings with gifts of charisma rather than ordinary mortals with petty concerns like the rest of us.

It is thus not surprising that our presidents have also been the causes of our deepest disappointments. This is especially true of those who were not simply elected but were installed by popular uprising. They are the products not of normal but of revolutionary politics. Their mandate is to inaugurate the new rather than to ensure the continuity of the old. They are expected to bring about paradigm shifts in the conduct of our affairs as a nation, rather than to follow what has been customary.

Ms Macapagal was never convincing in this role. She kept going back to the templates of traditional politics, with which she is understandably more familiar. On her first few weeks in office, for instance, she publicly announced that a choice position in the diplomatic service would be reserved for a disgruntled general. "It is his for the asking," she said without batting an eyelash, as if to assure her allies that she knows how to honor a debt.

A presidential search committee created to screen nominees and recommend the most qualified people to government positions according to strict professional criteria folded up in frustration because it could not match the pace at which the President herself was issuing appointments without benefit of prior screening. The pattern of using board seats in revenue-rich government agencies and corporations to reward political allies quickly became the norm for the new government.

While no single case of corruption against the President or her immediate family has been proven, negative talk has persisted, and the public perception is that she herself has not been completely transparent in all her dealings. One oft-cited example is her clandestine meeting with businessman Pacifico Marcelo who has accused her of demanding a majority share of his company in exchange for a franchise. Even if Marcelo's version of his encounter with the President sounded incredible, it nevertheless raised disturbing questions about her sense of propriety after she acknowledged receiving him at the Palace through the backdoor.

Such lapses make it easy for the public to believe the worst about the President and her immediate family. Her personal projection in public has not helped her. It is not so much her coldness or remoteness that is disconcerting to many as her seeming inability to rise above political heckling and intrigue. When she indulges her pique, she loses her poise, and then she is reduced, in the eyes of the public, to a petty politician. A president must be able to govern herself well if she is to govern a nation.

This is all very unfortunate because Ms Macapagal is a competent and hard-working President. She has impressed world leaders with her intelligence and firm understanding of the imperatives of a global economy. Although the economic achievements of her presidency have not made a dent on the living conditions of the Filipino poor, these are nevertheless significant contributions to the building of a stronger economy.

Anyone who claims that the economy is worse today than it was during the final months of the Estrada administration must be hallucinating. We were staring into an abyss toward the end of 2000. There was not a single investor who was crazy enough to inject new money into a very sick economy run by a venal government. It is difficult to imagine to what depths the nation would have sunk if the Estrada presidency had continued beyond January 2001.

We did the right thing at Edsa II. We got rid of a corrupt president by a non-institutional route, but we saved the constitutional order.

The situation today however is less than ideal. The former president is in detention awaiting trial for plunder, but his allies remain in power, blocking the government at every turn. The failure of President Macapagal to relieve the suffering of the poor in any meaningful way has made it hard for her to win over this mass constituency. She worries over her tenuous grip on the presidency, and this inclines her even more to prioritize political consolidation over reform.

Despite all this, it is foolish to blame all our problems on the government. If the spirit of Edsa II lives, we must begin to demand of ourselves the same selflessness and nobility we expect of our leaders.

* * *

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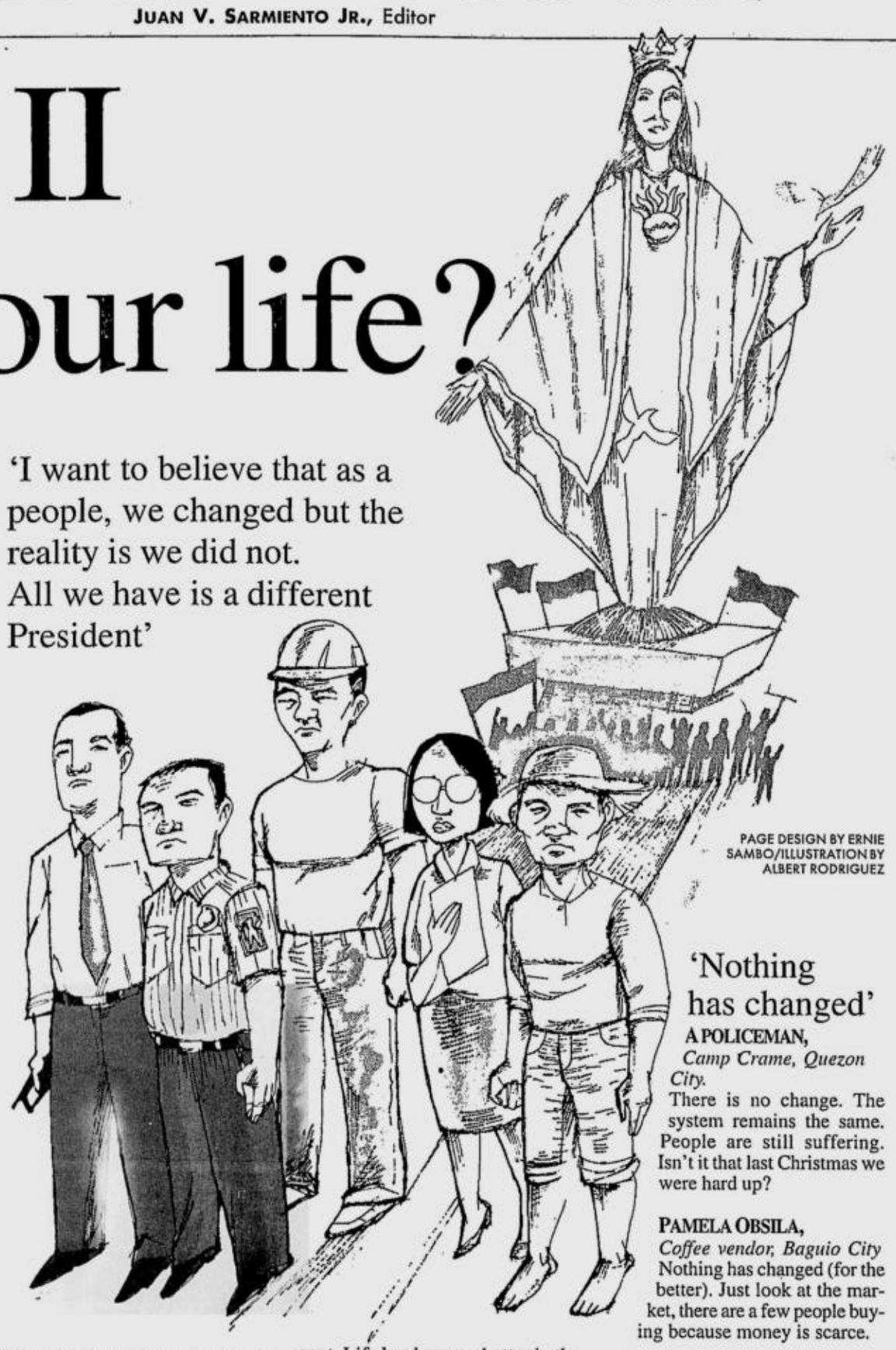
TALK OF THE TOWN

JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR., Editor

Did Edsa II change your life?



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IT'S THE curse of rising expectations. A year after, Filipinos generally feel that Edsa II has not changed their lives for the better. From Ilocos Norte to Davao City, most say their quality of life has either remained the same or has deteriorated. Those who say that things are turning for the worse belong to the middle and lower classes such as a manager, a policeman, a jeepney driver, a security guard, a secretary, market vendors and farmers.

These people, who responded to the question, give face to the findings of an Asia Pulse survey that most Filipinos felt that their quality of life deteriorated in 2001.

A few, who feel that Edsa II has made life a little better, include two women living in the rich enclaves of Makati.

'I want to believe that as a people, we changed but the reality is we did not. All we have is a different President'

'We lost our jobs for heeding Sin's call to join Edsa II.'

ALEX SANTOS
Vice president of Yokohama Employees Union in Clark
When Cardinal Sin, Cory (Aquino) and the IBP (Integrated Bar of the Philippines) called on workers to join the rally at Edsa to oust Erap, around 200 of us responded. We joined the Erap Resign Movement in Pampanga and walked out of our plant in Clark to go to Edsa on Jan. 16.

We stayed on until Jan. 21, when Gloria (President Macapagal-Arroyo) was sworn in. When we went back to Clark to resume work, we were no longer included in the manning list. We have been dismissed because of the walkout.

Cardinal Sin and the IBP had said when they called for the walkout that the workers need not be afraid because they would help those joining them at Edsa. But we have not received help from them yet, and we have not had the chance to approach them.

We staged a picket for three months so we could retain our jobs, but the police dispersed us. Around 30 of us were hurt and we suffered harassment because of our protests against the Yokohama management. I was even abducted by airport security at Clark to discourage our members from picketing.

Around 80 of us are jobless now. Those who were rehired were suspended for three months and not given back wages. It's not fair. Where is justice? The entire nation converged during Edsa II. I don't see anything wrong with joining.

Gloria Macapagal has become President. Now, they call us heroes of Edsa II, but we lost our jobs.

'Accomplishments fell short of my expectations'

GIGI JAMIRO
Inbound domestic reservation manager, Blue Horizons Travel and Tours, Makati City
It seems that things are turning from bad to worse. I went to Edsa against the wishes of my family, which live in Zamboanga. They were pro-Erap because they believed he had a firm stand against the Abu Sayyaf and armed insurgents in Mindanao. I think GMA exerted her best but her accomplishments fell short of my expectations.

Still, if there are calls for another Edsa to oust her, I am not joining. People power will lose its meaning as it is for genuine change. I don't believe that if another person becomes president, there will be much difference. I really did not like Erap as president, so having GMA as President is just like having the lesser of two evils.

Anyway, it's just one year under her administration. Let's give her a chance to make up for her shortcomings.

'We removed a corrupt president'

OMPONG GALLEGO,
Taxi driver, Makati City
It's a big change. We booted out a corrupt president.

'Edsa II taught me to be vigilant'

SHERYL CUALES,
4th year architecture student, Mapua Institute of Technology
The traffic, pollution, floods, garbage, crime and terrorism remind me that Edsa II has not brought much change to my life.

But if there's one lesson that I've learned from Edsa II it is to be vigilant and be aware of what's happening in our country. It is not enough to go out of my house on election day and vote for a candidate with a popular name or pretty face. Let's vote for someone who really deserves to serve our country.

'It showed me that ordinary people could change leaders'

LAIZA RAMIREZ,
Accountancy student, Far Eastern University
It changed my life. I became aware of the people involved in politics, who don't really care about the Filipino's well being. They just care about acquiring power, money and fame. Joseph Estrada may have been replaced, but it's not true that our economy has improved. Our economy has further deteriorated. I can't see any changes. However, it helped me recognize more the essence of democracy.

Edsa II showed that even ordinary people like myself could fight against people who occupy high political positions.

'The President's best is not enough'

THELMA CHIONG,
Vice president for operations Crusade Against Violence
What was the issue? Was it the envelope or the President?

As Cebuanos, most of us did not participate in any of the activities related to Edsa Dos. Only a few hundreds went to the Fuente Osmeña Circle to express their sentiments. Most of us, however, were disappointed because we were not consulted. It was as if only the voices of those in Manila mattered. We were left to being mere spectators as history unfolded before our very eyes.

The Edsa People Power of Cory Aquino was very much different from Edsa Dos. People like us from the provinces are wondering if Manila is setting a trend in changing the President of the Republic. The way things stand, the changing of the guards is being done through a big demonstration. Well, it sure is a cheaper way compared to an election but is it reflective of the true sentiments of the people? We openly profess our love for this country but did we ever take into account the ideals that our heroes died for just to set things right for the generations after them to perpetuate?

I want to believe that as a people, we changed after Edsa Dos but the reality is we did not. All we have is a different President but we are the same Filipino people that we all were before Edsa Dos.

I'm a mother pained by the untimely death of two daughters. They were kidnapped, raped and brutally murdered by rich and influential young men. I have since been involved in anti-crime initiatives as vice president of the CAV. When we organized the CAV in the Visayas in 1998, we started with a few members. With the worsening crime situation in 2001, our membership quickly grew. An outspoken member once confronted me (and asked) if it is still appropriate to say that the government exists to serve and protect the people. The reality, according to her, is we serve them and protect ourselves.

Ms Macapagal seems to be doing her best but unfortunately, her best is not enough to really make a difference in our lives. She is perceived by most to be preoccupied with her 2004 agenda. We are one with most Filipinos in hoping that she set this aside and for once, be the leader the people had rallied for at Edsa.

'College graduates like me have no jobs'

LENNY CHANTIOCO,
Fish vendor, Baguio City market
With or without Edsa II, life is pretty much the same. Jobs are not enough. College graduates like me have no jobs. They're saying that there have been changes, but we cannot feel it. I don't believe in Edsa.

'Life has become better'

ISABEL LAUREL-BARANDIANAN,
Businesswoman, resident of Forbes Park
President Macapagal-Arroyo has done a really good job. We can't expect her to change things in one year. She has fulfilled some of her promises. She is intelligent. Life has become better in the sense that it's "back to basics." Before it was all *palakasan*. Also, I now have a better sense of security.

'My salary increased'

SPO4 EDWIN PAPA,
Mortuary, Camp Crame
There is change. My salary increased from P10,000 to P12,000 every month. It's big, huh.

'The poor became poorer'

NENA,
Vegetable vendor, Laoag City
After Edsa II, the poor became poorer. I have been selling vegetables for the past two years but the income I get these days has dropped from P150 a day to only P70.

RODOLFO BALANCE,
Tobacco farmer, Candon City, Ilocos Sur
Life became worse after Edsa II. Tobacco farmers have to contend with high production costs, increases in the prices of insecticides, pesticides and fertilizers. While fuel prices have gone down, taxes have gone up.

ED,
Farmer and college graduate, Laoag City
"Life gets harder by the day. During the time of former President Ferdinand Marcos, my family could get by with the income that I derived from farming and landscaping. But after Edsa II, prices of basic needs shot up. I even have to work part time selling newspapers just to tide my family over. But the price of newspapers increased that's why the number of copies I can sell has dropped as my customers can no longer afford it.

'It's a little better'

WINNIE RODRIGO,
Owner of Pietro Collection, a shop in Edsa Shangri-La and resident of Dasmariñas Village
Life is a little better. But the economy as a whole is still the same. Business has been good despite what has happened. People are still prudent but they still buy in my shop. Anyway my business is not dependent on government policies.

'Nothing has changed'

A POLICEMAN,
Camp Crame, Quezon City.
There is no change. The system remains the same. People are still suffering. Isn't it that last Christmas we were hard up?

PAMELA OBSILA,
Coffee vendor, Baguio City
Nothing has changed (for the better). Just look at the market, there are a few people buying because money is scarce.

SIMON AMBASING,
Jeepney driver, Baguio City
"It's nothing. Even if they order oil price rollbacks, the prices of basic commodities do not go down."

LUCILLE MOSQUIERA,
Computer operator of a government agency
My life is still the same. GMA's administration is full of promises. Nothing concrete has been achieved.

WIDMARK ROMERO,
Bellman at the Cebu Midtown Hotel
We were badly affected. There were several cancellations because the foreigners were unsure of the country's political situation. I would usually receive at least P400 a day in tips from our guests. But during Edsa II, the tips dropped to P180 because of low tourist arrivals.

A year after People Power II, tourists are returning. But there is only one thing that stops more tourists from flocking to Cebu—the Abu Sayyaf. The tourists, particularly the Japanese, believe that Cebu is part of Mindanao and that (the provinces) in the Philippines, except Mactan Island, are land-locked. So they are afraid to come here (Cebu) for fear the Abu Sayyaf might kidnap them.

'It's definitely better'

JR ISAAC,
Havana Café manager, Adriatico Street, Malate
It's definitely better. The problem is systemic and the new dispensation has tried its best. It has the determination and the drive to change for the better. This is my country. I have to help the government.

'I feel a little bit secure'

MENCHIE CRUZ,
Assistant vice president of a government-attached agency
After all that happened, I feel a little bit secure. But if we look at any big impact of Edsa II on our economy, I'd say that there is none yet. We are still in a transition period.

We have so many problems. One year of GMA's leadership is not enough to gauge her administration. But in fairness, I can see in the present administration GMA's focus for the good of the people. She has been managing our country in a professional way, especially with the people around her.

'We now aspire for better government'

CECIL BRAÑA,
Brand assistant, Metrovet Inc., Ortigas Center
After Edsa II, my hopes were renewed knowing that the Filipinos were becoming more vigilant. Now, there is still hope for us to achieve a better economy and a better way of running our country because I see that the Filipinos' patience is wearing thin. We now aspire for better service and a better government.

'Edsa II is our inspiration in fighting corruption in Ilocos'

NESTOR SEGISMUNDO,
President, Save Ilocos Sur Alliance, Bantay, Ilocos Sur
Edsa II was instrumental in opening our eyes to the gravity of corruption in government and how people should respond to stamp out this menace in our society. It served as inspiration for us to also struggle against corrupt officials in Ilocos Sur. From being cowards, we have gained strength and courage to fight. Edsa II is a model we are trying to emulate in our province. It has given us a reason to be hopeful.

'We don't live up to Edsa's true meaning'

LUCITA TUMPAG,
Teacher, Flora Ylagan High School, Quezon City
In general, there were no changes although (Education Secretary Raul) Roco's term is a little better. Our salaries have been updated.

What we need is to let her (Ms Macapagal) finish her term. Then true electoral reforms must be established so there can be a true mandate. Edsa is fast becoming a habit, yet we never live up to its true meaning.

'There is much to be done'

AURORA REYNA,
Vice president for academic affairs, Luzon Colleges, Dagupan City and Erap Agco La! convenor
Edsa II made me realize that there is still much work to do, that we as Filipinos cannot rest on whatever laurels we reaped from Edsa I. We have to continue the fight for better governance and society.

'Another Edsa will further divide us'

JONATHAN LAGO,
Security guard, Davao City
Edsa II really affected us because our economy got worse. Fares increased and we don't have a working government. We have become the object of ridicule by other countries because we can change our leader just by holding rallies. Selecting leaders should be through election.

Look at Ms Macapagal now. She can't easily decide because she has to make sure that she is not putting the interests of those who put her in power through Edsa II in a bad light. I hope Edsa will not be repeated because it will divide us more.

'Choosing a president through election is the correct way'

MYRNALY ALE,
3rd year college student University of Mindanao
As a student, it did not affect me in any way, because in the first place I was not part of the rallies. But in my observation, nothing has changed since Edsa II.

But I will not support any idea to remove the President through People Power. There should be an election. That is the correct way.

Interviews by Blanche S. Rivera, Ceres Doyo, TJ Burgonio, Alcuin Papa, PDI Research team—Ray Leyesa, Chona Galang, Michael Cucio and Minerva Generalao—and, Cynthia Allanigue in Manila, Leoncio Balbin Jr., Yolanda Fuertes, Cristina Arzadon and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Connie E. Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau; and PDI Mindanao Bureau

PHILIPPINE PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

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28th Annual Convention

January 22-25, 2002 Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City

theme:
"De-stigmatization: Cutting the Gordian Knot"

MESSAGES

Warmest felicitations to the Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc. on its 28th Annual Convention.

I commend the PPA for its meritorious achievements and unwavering commitment towards professional excellence in promoting the mental health of our people. Your convention theme, "De-stigmatization: Cutting the Gordian Knot," manifests your unwavering commitment to help society prevent and control mental diseases. I hope this momentous occasion will inspire greater camaraderie among your ranks and strengthen your resolve to give our people the opportunity to lead more fulfilling lives. I encourage you to persevere in providing medical support for mentally troubled persons as well as in educating the public about mental diseases.

People with mental disease and behavioral problems must be given the necessary medical care and support so that they can recover and become healthy citizens capable of contributing their share to national development. The work of psychiatrists is vital in helping mentally ill deal positively with their ailment and carry on with life the best way possible. I urge you to continue your noble dedication to promote health and enhance the quality of life of our people.

Our strategic partnership provides impetus and dynamism to our common pursuit of quality healthcare for all Filipinos. Let us work together in healing and rebuilding our nation towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

I would like to express my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc. as you hold your 28th Annual National Convention.

The global movement towards a more holistic approach to healthcare underscores the importance of promoting mental health as an integral part of the broader concepts of health and wellness. Resolving most of our mental health problems entails untying the intricacies of the human mind as it operates within the context of the existing socioeconomic, political and cultural milieu.

Holding this year's convention with the theme, "Destigmatization: Cutting the Gordian Knot," is therefore a valiant attempt to discover and unlock the interrelated factors and processes that lead to cultural beliefs and biases which then contribute to the social stigma attached to varying mental conditions.

I hope that this convention will provide an avenue for an interactive exchange of ideas and methods that will eventually lead to a meaningful resolution of the issues that affect the promotion and protection of mental health. I hope that this convention will likewise stimulate interest among different stakeholders in redefining the national mental health program into one that is appropriate and more responsive to the needs of our country.

I urge you to continue your initiatives in making quality healthcare more accessible to many of our fellow Filipinos especially the poor and the underserved, as I thank you for your unwavering support to the Department of Health and its programs.

May this convention be a successful and productive one.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

We are pleased to convey, on behalf of the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association sincerest congratulations and felicitations to the officers and members of the Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc. on the occasion of its 28th Annual National Convention.

The PMA has taken special note of this year's theme, "De-Stigmatization: Cutting the Gordian Knot", as it is reflective of the Association's overriding concern in removing the stigma associated with psychiatric patients. A positive step towards this end is served well through its emphasis on the importance of continuing medical education. This year's menu serves a wide range of issues, so expansive that they touch practically all aspects of psychiatric care. For sure, they will also help doctors broaden and deepen their understanding of challenges of contemporary practice. We join you in making this Annual Convention most fruitful and eventful.

On the other hand, may we enjoin you, as specialists of mind and body, to continue giving reality to the PMA theme, "Doctors at the Forefront - A Challenge for Change", by encouraging doctors to meet challenges in psychiatric care.

Congratulations. Mabuhay ang Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc.

GIL C. FERNANDEZ, M.D.
President
Philippine Medical Association

Greetings!

It's an honor to welcome our Honorable Keynote Speaker, the Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines, Teofisto Guingona, our dynamic speakers, members, corporate partners, guests and friends to the 28th Annual Convention.

The theme dubbed: Destigmatization: Cutting the Gordian Knot continue with our thrust to stop the stigma attached to mental illness and our profession. It emphasizes on how psychiatry is perceived by the public mind, media and Medical Community. Furthermore, it is designed to end the dichotomy in mental and physical health as separate issues.

Let's unite to achieve the hallmark of Excellence: on Quality Education, Research, Clinical Services, Administrative and Advocacy to change attitudes and to reduce stigma.

In behalf of the officers, Board of Directors, Scientific and Organizing Committee, I thank you for the unending support. It was a pleasure serving the association in the pursuit of our vision.

Mabuhay ang Philippine Psychiatric Association!

VENUS SERRA-ARAIN, MD, FPPA, MHA
President, 2001-2002
Philippine Psychiatric Association

Welcome to our 28th Annual Convention!

The convention's theme "De-stigmatization: Cutting the Gordian Knot" accentuates our need to raise the consciousness of the general public to mental health issues. It cannot be overemphasized that the stigma of mental illness is our "Gordian Knot," it being thorny and pesky. It being thorny and pesky, our convention highlights the role of education as one of the means that can help de-stigmatize it by dispelling common myths of mental disorders and promoting more positive attitudes and behaviors. Also, the convention reminds us that de-stigmatization should start from within before we can hope to effectively educate peers, physicians, caregivers, friends, family and the general public about mental health issues.

The controversial topic, "The Impaired Physician," "Psychiatry in the Workplace," and "Violence in the Mentally Ill: Fact or Fiction," likewise controversial topics, play major roles in this convention. The annual convention also offers lectures and discussions on the sub-specialties of psychiatry: addiction, biological, child and adolescent, consultation liaison, social and community, forensic, geriatric, occupational and psychodynamic. On the lighter side, the fellowship committee has a "PPA Supershow" in store for us.

So, again welcome to our annual convention and may "Alexander the Great" be with us so that we may be brave, swift and inventive in de-stigmatizing anything "mental."

DINO SC PEÑA, MD, FPPA
Vice President and Chairman
Committee on Scientific Activities and Conferences

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PROGRAM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2002

3:00-7:00 PM Opening of Registration
5:00 PM Opening Ceremonies

Invocation: **Michelene Escobar-Buot, MD, FPPA**
National Anthem: **Philippine Chamber Orchestra**
PPA Hymn: **Philippine Chamber Orchestra**
Welcome Address: **Dino S.C. Peña, MD, FPPA**

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker:
Venus Serra-Arain, MD, FPPA, MHA

Keynote Speaker:
Vice-President Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr.

"De-stigmatization: Cutting the Gordian Knot (Education as a Tool)"

6:15 PM *Passages (In Memoriam of Drs. Gamez, Santiago and Walter)*
Speaker: **Roberto B. Capistrano, MD, FPPA**
Dr. Robert T. Walter Memorial Lecture
Psychiatry in the Workplace
Speaker: **Ponciano Z. Jerez, Jr., MD, FPPA**

7:00 PM Induction of Junior and Regular Members
7:30 PM Pfizer Dinner Symposium

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2002

7:00 AM Registration
9:00 AM Opening of Booth Exhibits

Stigma and Mental Health
9:30 AM • *De-stigmatization: Starting From Within*
Speaker: **Vicente S. Cabuquit, MD, FPPA, DPM (London)**
10:15 AM Coffee Break
10:30 AM • *Healing the Impaired Physician*
Speaker: **Pacita R. Salceda, MD, FPPA**
Responder: **Luis C. Sundiang, MD, FPPA**

12 NOON Sanofi-Synthelabo Lunch Symposium
Topic: *"Rethinking the Dopamine Hypothesis of Schizophrenia"*
Speakers: **Anselmo T. Tronco, MD, FPPA**
Raymond L. Rosales, MD, FPPA

Stigma and Undergraduate Psychiatric Education
2:00 PM • *Nipping the Bud of Stigma*
Speaker: **Georgina Gozo-Oliver, MD, FPPA**
2:45 PM • *Undergraduate Psychiatry in Problem Based Learning (PBL)*
Speaker: **Ma. Imelda B. Batar, MD, FPPA**

3:30 PM Coffee Break
3:45 PM Business Meeting
6:00 PM Philippine Board of Psychiatry

Conferment of the New Diplomates of the Philippine Board of Psychiatry

7:15 PM Conferment of the New Fellows
7:30 PM Novartis Dinner Symposium
Topic: *"Violence in the Mentally Ill: Fact or Fiction?"*
Speakers: **A. Efren B. Reyes, MD, FPPA**
Isagani S. Gonzales, MD, FPPA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2002

8:00 AM Registration
8:00-12:00N Election of Board of Trustees
8:00 AM A Tribute to Dr. Gilberto L. Gamez

Biological Psychiatry
9:00 AM • *The Etiopathogenic Spectrum of Schizophrenia: From Neurodevelopmental to Neurodegenerative*
Speaker: **Bernardo L. Conde, MD, FPPA, FPNA**
9:45 PM • *Memories*
Speaker: **Simeon M. Marasigan, MD, FPPA, FPNA**
10:30 AM Coffee Break

Geriatric Psychiatry
10:45 AM • *Stigma in the Elderly*
Speaker: **Robert D. Buenaventura, MD, FPPA**
11:30 AM Servier Lunch Symposium
Topic: *"Tianeptine for Mixed-Anxiety Depression: The Philippine Experience"*
Speaker: **Bernardo L. Conde, MD, FPPA, FPNA**

Community Psychiatry*
1:15 PM • *Disaster Preparedness in the Community*
Speaker: **Ivanhoe C. Escartin, MD, FPPA**

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*
2:00 PM • *"TV and Cyberspace: New Age Baby Sitters?" The Effects of Television and Computers on the Minds of Children*
Speakers: **Adoracion L. Tañega, MD, FPPA**
Responders: **Atty. Oscar Orbos**
Ms. Rosita Sioson-Orbos

Current Issues and Trends in Psychiatry*
1:15 PM • *Psychiatric Aspects of Fitness to Work**
Speaker: **Roberto B. Capistrano, MD, FPPA**
2:00 PM • *Psychotherapy for Battered Women**
Speaker: **Ma. Rosanna de Guzman, MD, DPBP**
*Parallel Sessions
3:30 PM Coffee Break
3:45 PM Residents' Case Presentation Competition*

Consultants' Hour*
3:45 PM • *Acupuncture in Stress Management*
Speaker: **Tan Cho-Chiong, MD**
• *Power Dressing*
Speaker: **Ms. Olen Juarez-Lim**

5:10 PM Residents' Forum
After Residency: What Now?
Coordinators: **Jon Edward B. Jurilla, MD, DPBP**
Salvador Benjamin D. Vista, MD
6:00 PM Eli Lilly Dinner Symposium
Topic: *"Getting the Most Out of Antipsychotic Treatment"*
Speaker: **Frans August Korb, B.Sc. (Hons) (UOFS)**
8:30 PM Fellowship Night
"The PPA Supershow"

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2002

9:00-11:30 AM Tour of Booth Exhibits
11:30 AM AstraZeneca Lunch Symposium
Topic: *"Treatment Psychosis: In to the New Millennium"*
Speaker: **Sean W. Flynn, MD**

Addiction Psychiatry*
2:00 PM • *Other Therapies in the Management of Drug Abuse**
Speaker: **Benita Sta. Ana-Ponio, MD, FPPA**
2:40 PM • *What Happens in Rehab Centers?**
Roads And Bridges Staff and Residents
*Parallel Sessions

Consultation Liaison Psychiatry*
Chairperson: **Dulce Lizza R. Sahagun, MD, FPPA**
2:00 PM • *Developmental Issues in Consultation Liaison Psychiatry**
Speaker: **Antonio C. Sison, MD, FPPA**
2:40 PM • *Psychiatric Liaison Program for HIV/AIDS Patients at the San Lazaro Hospital*
Speaker: **Ramon L. Yu, Jr., MD**
• *Psychiatric Liaison for the Physically Disabled (The Rehabilitation Sheltered Workshop-DSWD)*
Speaker: **Jay Madelon Castillo-Carcereny, MD**

3:15 PM Coffee Break
3:30 PM Research Paper Competition

Sexuality, Stigma and Mental Health
Chairperson: **Ma. Luz C. Querubin, MD, DPBP**
4:00 PM • *Female Sexuality: Issues in Therapy*
Speaker: **Sonia C. Rodriguez, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI**
4:45 PM • *Male Heterosexuality: A Continuing Developmental Challenge*
Speaker: **Edgardo Juan L. Tolentino, Jr., MD, FPPA**

6:00 PM Janssen Dinner Symposium
Topic: *"Novel Treatments in Bipolar Disorder"*
Speaker: **John Cookson, MD**
8:00 PM Closing Ceremonies
*Parallel Sessions

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The WORLD
LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Palestinian radio station set ablaze

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israeli troops blew up the Voice of Palestine radio station offices early on Saturday in an apparent fresh retribution for a Palestinian shooting attack on Thursday that killed six people.

The Palestinian gunman's rampage at a Jewish birthday party in northern Israel and new Israeli assaults on symbols of Palestinian independence have left a nearly month-old truce drive in tatters despite US and European efforts to quell more than 15 months of bloodshed.

Israeli soldiers, accompanied by tanks and bulldozers, entered the Voice of Palestine's five-story building in the West Bank city of Ramallah to lay the charges and clear away its occupants and onlookers. The Army had no immediate comment.

A Reuters correspondent at the scene said the explosives set the building on fire, sending up a large cloud of smoke and debris into the sky still dark before dawn. Palestinian firemen tried to douse the flames.

Voice of Palestine regular broadcasts had not begun for the day and it was not yet clear whether the Israeli operation would have affected its transmissions.

Jibril Rajoub, Palestinian Preventive Security chief in the West Bank, said the Israeli move showed that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon "lacks any political horizon and war is his only option."

"This stupid Israeli government wants to destroy the symbol of Palestinian sovereignty. But Voice of Palestine radio is not only a building to be destroyed, it is inside the hearts of every Palestinian," Rajoub told Reuters.

Israel has accused the Voice of Palestine, which broadcasts the official positions of the Palestinian Authority, of transmitting inciteful material during the Palestinian uprising which erupted in September 2000.

Palestinians deny the charge and say Israel is trying to silence its media.

Israel on Friday launched reprisals for the Palestinian attack at a Jewish bat mitzva, or coming-of-age party, in the northern Israeli city of Hadera on Thursday.

Six people were killed, most of them Russian-speaking immigrants, in the first major attack in Israel since Arafat declared a ceasefire a month ago under intense international pressure to end a wave of suicide bombings by militants.

The military response began with an air strike on a Palestinian security compound in the West Bank city of Tulkarm and a tightened military grip around Yasser Arafat's presidential offices in Ramallah.

One Palestinian was killed in the air strike on Friday and a second was shot dead by troops during a stonethrowing confrontation outside Arafat's office.

Israel demolished one of the Voice of Palestine's transmission towers and its broadcasting building in December, although the station has since continued to operate via local frequencies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The building blown up on Saturday housed administrative offices as well as studios for Palestinian television.

At least 809 Palestinians and 246 Israelis have been killed since the start of the uprising against Israeli occupation shortly after peace talks stalled.

The European Union condemned the Hadera shooting attack as "brutal and unjustified," as did US President George W. Bush. *Reuters*

China says Jiang's jet from US bugged

BEIJING—Chinese intelligence officers have found more than 20 spying devices in a US-built Boeing 767 intended to become President Jiang Zemin's official plane, the Financial Times reported Saturday.

The report comes at a deeply sensitive time, with US President George W. Bush due to visit Beijing for a summit next month, 30 years to the day after former leaders Richard Nixon and Mao Zedong held a historic summit.

There was no evidence of US government involvement in the bugging, the British business daily said, although it added that military experts in Beijing said the tiny, satellite-operated devices were far more sophisticated than any available to the general public.

It was unclear when the aircraft was fitted with the devices. One was found in a lavatory, another in the headboard of the presidential bed, the FT said, quoting unidentified Chinese officials.

Jiang was reported to be furious at the discovery. The bugs were detected after the aircraft emitted a "strange static whine" during test flights in China in September, the month after it was delivered, the FT said.

A spokesperson at China's Foreign Ministry said Saturday he was unable to comment on the report. There was no other official reaction from Beijing, and the story was not carried by any local media.

The twin-jet aircraft was made at Boeing's factory in Seattle and then fitted with VIP equipment and upholstery by another company elsewhere in the US, according to the FT.

The paper said it understood that the jet was empty of furnishings when it left Boeing.

The United States clashed with China over the issue of espionage last April when a Chinese fighter jet and a US spy plane collided over the South China sea.

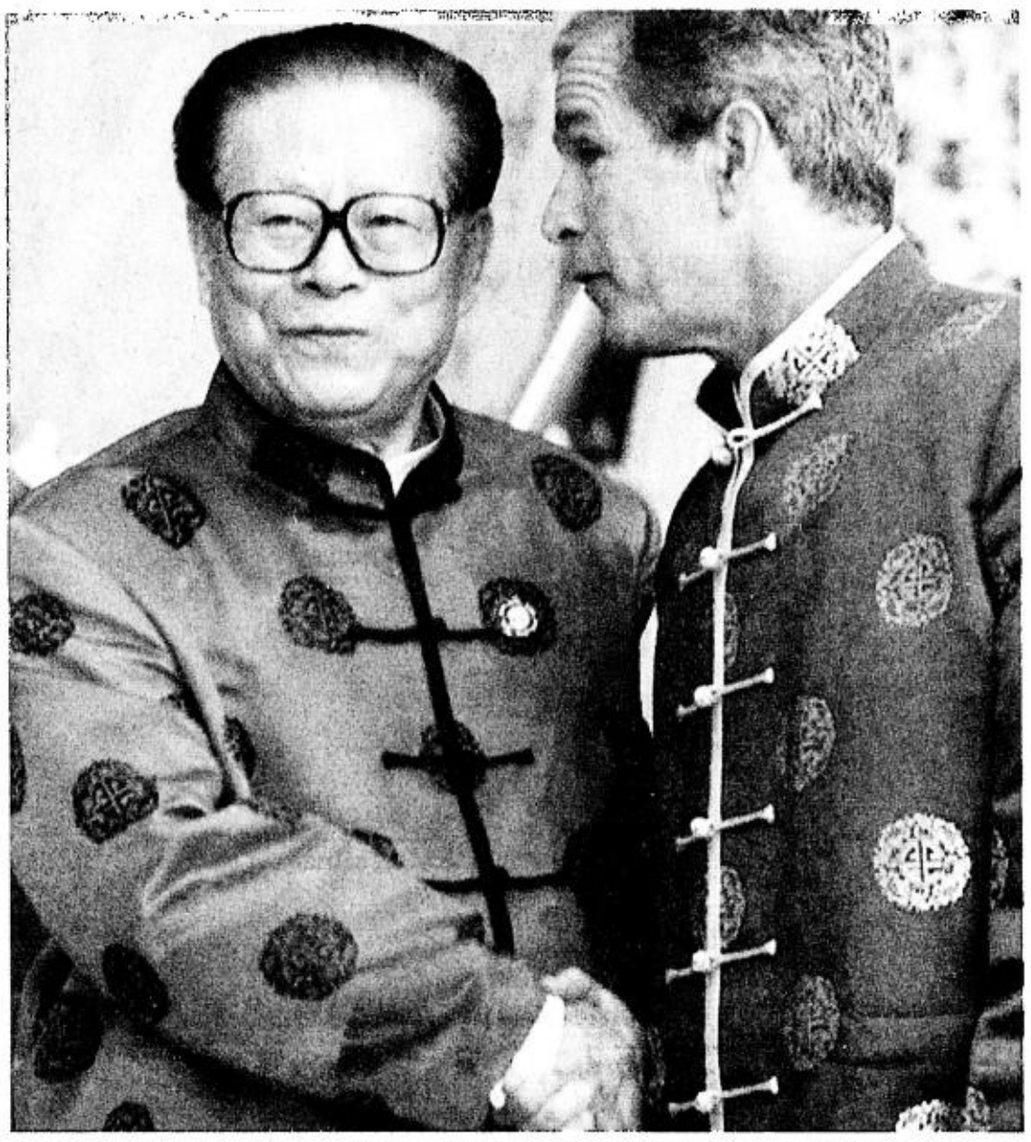
The collision resulted in the death of the Chinese pilot and the grounding of the US aircraft on a southern Chinese island, provoking a major diplomatic row.

Chinese security forces were reported to have launched an investigation into possible negligence within China United Airlines, the air force-run airline that ordered the presidential aircraft, and the state-owned China Aviation Supplies Export and Import Corp (CASC), which was responsible for importing it.

Some 20 air force officers have been held for questioning, Chinese military officials told the FT. Two CASC officials have also been taken into custody, according to the FT.

An executive with Boeing told the FT she had not heard about the discovery.

Paul Harris, professor of politics at Hong Kong's Lingnan University, said it was unclear who might have wanted to install listening devices. *AFP*



US President George W. Bush (right) and Chinese President Jiang Zemin greet one another in Shanghai in this Oct. 21, 2001 file photo. China has said its intelligence officers found more than 20 spying devices in a Boeing 767 meant to become Jiang's official plane after it was delivered from the US, the Financial Times reported Jan. 19. The discovery came ahead of a planned summit between Bush and Jiang in Beijing in February. REUTERS

Bin Laden probably dead, says Musharraf

ISLAMABAD—Osama bin Laden is probably dead of kidney failure, says Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, but US officials are vowing to keep up the search for the suspected terrorist mastermind.

As the United States pressed its hunt for the world's most wanted man, its Afghan allies geared for a critical conference in Tokyo which hopes to raise $5 billion to help rebuild their near-bankrupt country.

Afghanistan has been devastated by two decades of war, capped by a three-month-old US-led offensive to topple the Taliban regime and bring to justice the al-Qaida network of Bin Laden which it was harboring.

The Saudi-born militant has escaped capture but Musharraf said Friday that Bin Laden, who had kidney problems, probably died after being deprived of his regular dialysis treatments to clean out his bloodstream.

"I give the highest priority now, to be frank, that he's dead, for the reason that he is a patient. He's a kidney patient," Musharraf said in an interview with CNN.

"And I know—we know—that he'd donated two dialysis machines to Afghanistan. One was specifically for his own personal use and the other for general use," the Pakistani leader said.

"I really don't know whether he's been getting that treatment in Afghanistan now. And the photographs that lately have been shown on television show him extremely weak. I would give the first priority that he's dead."

In Washington, the White House said it was unable to confirm or deny whether Bin Laden was dead.

"We just don't know. I don't think the president would view that as an unwelcome event, but the fact of the matter is, we do not know," said Ari Fleischer, spokesperson for President George W. Bush.

Various reports have circulated concerning the fate of Bin Laden. Some have said he is still in Afghanistan, others that he escaped to Pakistan. ABC news reported Monday he may have fled the region by sea. *AFP*

White House intervened for Enron in India

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration intervened with top Indian officials last year in a bid to salvage an Enron Corp. project in India, according to documents released on Friday that shed new light on the administration's relations with a major financial backer.

The White House said the effort, involving Vice President Dick Cheney and other senior officials, was justified because the $2.9-billion Dabhol power project was financed in part through the US government's Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a taxpayer-backed agency that provides "political risk" insurance and loans to help US companies invest in developing nations.

The White House denied the push was influenced by Enron's political contributions. Enron was Bush's biggest backer heading into the 2000 presidential election, giving about $623,000 to his campaigns since 1993, when he was raising money for his first Texas gubernatorial race.

Opic's exposure to the Dabhol project amounted to $340 million in both insurance and loans. In a Nov. 6, 2001 letter to India's national security adviser, Opic President Peter Watson said the issue had risen "to the highest levels of the United States Government (and) could force Opic to close its programs entirely in India."

Watson's letter followed a June meeting between Cheney and Indian officials in which the vice president brought up the Enron project. In the months to follow Opic would prepare "talking points" on Dabhol for Bush's meeting on Nov. 9 with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

Bush did not bring up the issue, however, according to the documents and White House officials.

Just days before Vajpayee came to the White House, Enron chair Kenneth Lay had called Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill and Commerce Secretary Don Evans, Bush's 2000 campaign manager, to warn them of the company's mounting financial problems.

Enron President Lawrence "Greg" Whalley called Treasury Undersecretary Peter Fisher in late October and early November, seeking help for the energy-trading giant, which on Nov. 8, the day before the Bush-Vajpayee meeting, disclosed that it had overstated earnings dating back to 1997 by almost $600 million. The company filed for bankruptcy on Dec. 2, the largest in US history.

In recent weeks the White House has sought to distance itself from the widening scandal surrounding Enron. The White House says it monitored the situation but did nothing to help the Houston-based company avert collapse.

Enron owns 65 percent of Dabhol, General Electric Co. and construction firm Bechtel Corp. each own 10 percent and the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) the remaining 15 percent.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer defended the administration's intervention. "The United States taxpayers have an exposure to risk and loss through Opic," he told reporters.

"It's not uncommon for (companies) to have exposures which do require contacts between American officials and government officials in other countries to minimize those risks to taxpayers."

Fleischer noted that former President Bill Clinton's commerce secretaries had made similar appeals on behalf of Dabhol at various stages.

In addition to Opic's exposure, Fleischer said the US Export-Import Bank had made $300 million in direct loans toward the project. *Reuters*

OLSON during her sentencing hearing Jan. 18 in Los Angeles. REUTERS

Congolese fleeing eruption face hunger, disease

A MAN flees Goma's airport Jan. 17 as a plane takes off following the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano, 10 km from the town center of Goma. A volcanic eruption and a river of molten rock that has killed dozens, swallowed buildings and forced hundreds of thousands to flee this week was just the latest menace to befall the lakeside port which lies at a crossroads for rival armies, refugees and rebels on Congo's border with Rwanda. REUTERS

GOMA, Congo—A tide of refugees fleeing central Africa's most destructive volcanic eruption in 25 years struggled to stave off hunger and disease on Saturday after watching homes and streets vanish in a furnace of molten rock.

"There's nothing to eat," said businessman Justin Mosala, 48, watching angrily as smoking lava from Nyiragongo volcano pushed deeper into the eastern Congolese town of Goma.

"The government is saying nothing, the international community is saying nothing, we don't know what we're going to do . . . There's no markets, no shops, everything is gone."

Trudging through a blackened landscape shrouded in smoke and mist, more than 300,000 refugees clutching bedding and bundles of goods formed a river of human misery eastward into Rwanda. Others fled in boats to Bukavu on the southern tip of Lake Kivu.

"We have no hope," said medical student John Kambale, 25, standing some 20 meters from the two-day-old lava flow and surrounded by young men nodding agreement. "We've seen no reaction from the international community."

UN officials estimated 45 people had died in the eruption, which rumbled on late into Friday night as tremors from the 3,469-meter volcano shook the shores of the lake beside the Rwanda-Democratic Republic of Congo border.

In New York, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan assured the Congolese and Rwandan governments that he would "put the assets of the United Nations to full use in assisting them in mitigating the consequences of this disaster."

He was sending Ross Mountain, assistant emergency relief coordinator, to the region to support UN country teams already in place. UN disaster assessment team were en route to the affected area, complete with volcano experts.

Goma residents warned that diarrhea and malaria would soon start stalking thousands of people sleeping rough, while any possible outbreak of cholera would prove an even worse disaster.

"This is the most destructive eruption we have seen in the region (since 1977) because the town of Goma is practically razed to the ground," said Dieudonne Wafula, a Rwandan volcanologist.

He was comparing the eruption to the peak's last major convulsion in 1977, when a sea of magma burst through fissures in Nyiragongo's flanks at 60 km an hour, killing scores in what experts said was the fastest lava flow on record. *Reuters*

Olson sentenced in '70s SLA case

LOS ANGELES—Radical fugitive turned Minnesota soccer mom Sara Jane Olson was sentenced during an emotionally wrenching court hearing on Friday to 20 years to life in prison for her role in a plot to plant bombs under police cars during the turbulent 1970s.

Olson, who spent nearly a quarter century on the run until her 1999 arrest and then remained defiant for more than two years before her November guilty plea, sobbed through much of the hearing, which came just two days after prosecutors in Sacramento, California, charged her with murder.

"I accept responsibility for any pain I caused. I am truly sorry," said the 55-year-old Olson, who after eluding police in the 1970s as Kathleen Ann Soliah resurfaced in the suburbs of St. Paul, Minnesota, where she married an emergency room physician and raised three daughters.

Olson, who prosecutors say was a supporter of the brutal Symbionese Liberation Army during the 1970s, addressed the court after Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler heard testimonials on her behalf from her family and supporters. *Reuters*

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Kidnapped trader's family refuses to talk about ransom negotiations

BY RUSSELL ARADOR AND RONALD DIZON
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—Concerned over the safety of kidnap-for-ransom victim, Ricardo Morales Sy, members of the businessman's family are keeping a tight lid on the details of the alleged negotiations with his abductors.

Sy was traveling with his wife Anita in their Cadillac along a road in Barangay Tibag on Jan. 16 when their car was blocked by another car. Four men armed with Uzis and .45-cal. pistols forcibly took Sy.

Sy's case is the first kidnap-for-ransom case involving a Chinese-Filipino businessman in Tarlac, police said.

INQUIRER sources said the abductors had already contacted the Sy family, but authorities are unaware of the details of the supposed ransom negotiations.

Concern for health

Mayor Genaro Mendoza said Sy's children were "now more concerned about the safety of their father, who had just recovered from a stroke."

Sy, who is in his early 60s, has been on "maintenance drugs" for his heart ailment and to stabilize his blood pressure.

"The family is worried that (Sy's) health might deteriorate," Mendoza said.

Mendoza said he met with one of the victim's children on Friday night to offer help.

But he said Sy's son, lawyer Ricardo Sy II, "begged my indulgence to allow his family to deal with the situation privately."

"He (Sy II) refused to discuss details of the negotiations with the kidnappers," Mendoza said.

He said Sy II, who is also an agent of the National Bureau of Investigation, had been worried that newspaper reports describing the family's supposed wealth might "worsen the situation."

"For one, the Sy family does not own a garment factory. The victim, who was a mere *kargador* (porter) during the 1960s, used to be in the construction business, but not anymore because of his health," Mendoza said.

Sy's family owns the US Lumber and Hardware store in this city.

Mendoza said while he favored a no-ransom policy in kidnapping cases, "we cannot blame the family if they decide to resolve the situation their own way."

Reports circulating in the Filipino-Chinese community in the province said the kidnap-for-ransom syndicate was demanding P20 million in exchange for Sy's release.

In a meeting with Mendoza, officers of the Tarlac Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Tarlac Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry vowed to "join hands" in fighting kidnap-for-ransom syndicates in the province.

The mayor said businessmen have not only requested "double police visibility" but have also begun hiring private security men.

Mendoza said the police should not be blamed for not having caught up with the abductors as they fled because "the information came to them 30 minutes after the incident."

An anonymous caller reported the abduction to the police through a two-way radio.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers mostly over the Eastern sections. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 20°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/01/20/02

Official ambushed, killed

STA. MARIA, Bulacan—The planning and development officer of this town was killed in an ambush in Barangay San Jose Patag here on Friday.

Police identified the victim as Apolinario Roxas, 46. Reports said Roxas was on his way home aboard his Honda Civic when the suspects, who were aboard two motorcycles, blocked his path and shot him. Roxas died while being taken to the district hospital here.

Police recovered 25 spent shells of .45-cal. pistol in the crime scene. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Hopes kept alive Lopez Jaena shrine to be built soon

BY RAJ PADILLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—f plans do not miscarry, the construction of a shrine for Ilonggo hero Dr. Graciano Lopez Jaena, will finally push through this year.

Former Iloilo Vice Gov. Demy Sonza told the INQUIRER that the Graciano Lopez Jaena Foundation is negotiating to reacquire the lot where the house of Lopez Jaena used to stand on Fajardo Street in Jaro District here.

"If the (foundation) succeeds in getting the lot, it will be a lot easier on our part to get the support of the national government in the construction of a shrine for our hero," said Sonza, former chair and now trustee of the Graciano Lopez Jaena Foundation.

He said architect Nilo Moralidad already prepared the plan for the shrine, which will be a two-story structure that will house a museum, a library and the office of the foundation.

The 300-square meter vacant lot, which was formerly owned by Lopez Jaena, now belongs to the Javelosa family.

"What we have there at present is only a historical marker which signifies that it's (Lopez Jaena's) birthplace," Sonza said.

He said that if their project pushes through, the shrine will be a "lasting and concrete memorial" for the Ilonggo hero who played a central role in the country's battle for independence against Spain.

"The shrine will be one place where people can go (to) if they want to know more about Dr. Graciano Lopez Jaena," Sonza said. "It will also be a concrete proof that the Ilonggos have never forgotten his works and legacy."

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas gave an assurance to support the project during the 145 birth anniversary rites for Lopez Jaena at the Lopez Jaena Park in Jaro, Iloilo City last Dec. 18.

He said he would help look for funds for the construction of the shrine, which would cost at least P4 million.

Born in Jaro, Lopez Jaena studied at the Seminary of Jaro before he left for Spain to study medicine at the University of Valencia.

Prior to his departure for Spain, Lopez Jaena already incurred the ire of Spanish friars over his Fray Botod writings, criticizing the friars for their abuses.

Lopez Jaena relocated in Madrid and later distinguished himself as a great orator. His speeches were always about Spain's excesses in the Philippines.

Unable to contain their anger against Spanish atrocities, Lopez Jaena, along with other Filipino reformists in Spain, founded the La Solidaridad, the official newspaper of the Propaganda Movement.

Lopez Jaena became La Solidaridad's first editor. He was succeeded in the years that followed by Marcelo H. del Pilar and Jose Rizal.

Lopez Jaena died a pauper in Spain before the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution.

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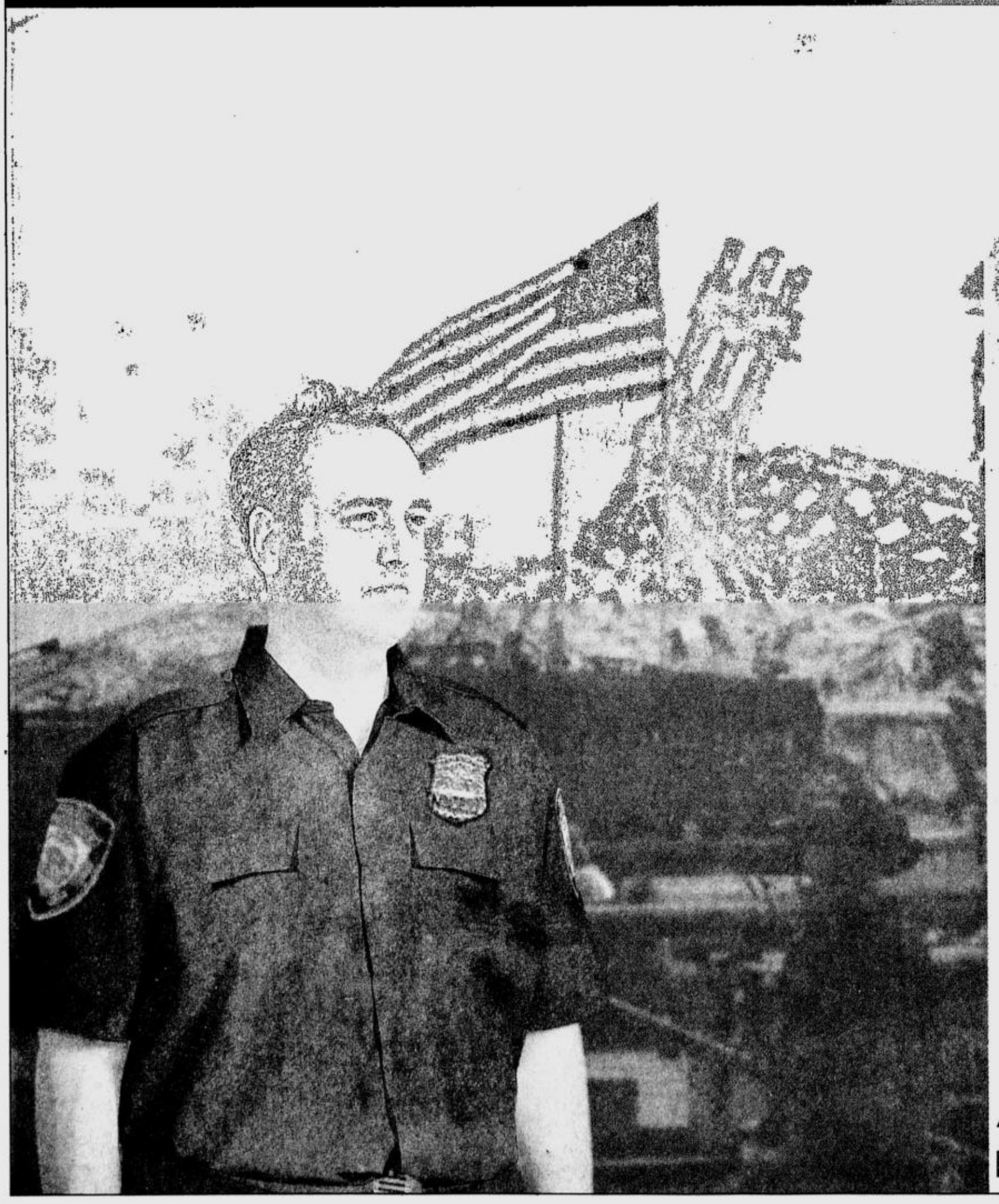

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Hospital bill too heavy for Navarrete

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Former slugger Rolando Navarrete was declared out of danger by his attending physicians at the St. Elizabeth Hospital here, where he was admitted for serious hack wounds on Tuesday evening.

However, personnel from the hospital's billing section said Navarrete should first settle his bills before he could be discharged.

The former World Boxing Council junior lightweight champion told the INQUIRER he has no money to pay the bills, which as of Thursday amounted to more than P3,000.

"I don't know," he said when asked who would pay the bill.

Navarrete, known as the Bad Boy of Dadiangas during his heyday, was hacked by an irate neighbor on Tuesday in Barangay Bula where he resides.

The neighbor, identified as Elmer Yuson, 27, said the former champ boxed him twice without any reason.

Navarrete was allegedly drunk at that time.

Navarrete, however, denied that he was drunk, but admitted that he punched Yuson.

He said he got irked after Yuson repeatedly taunted him.

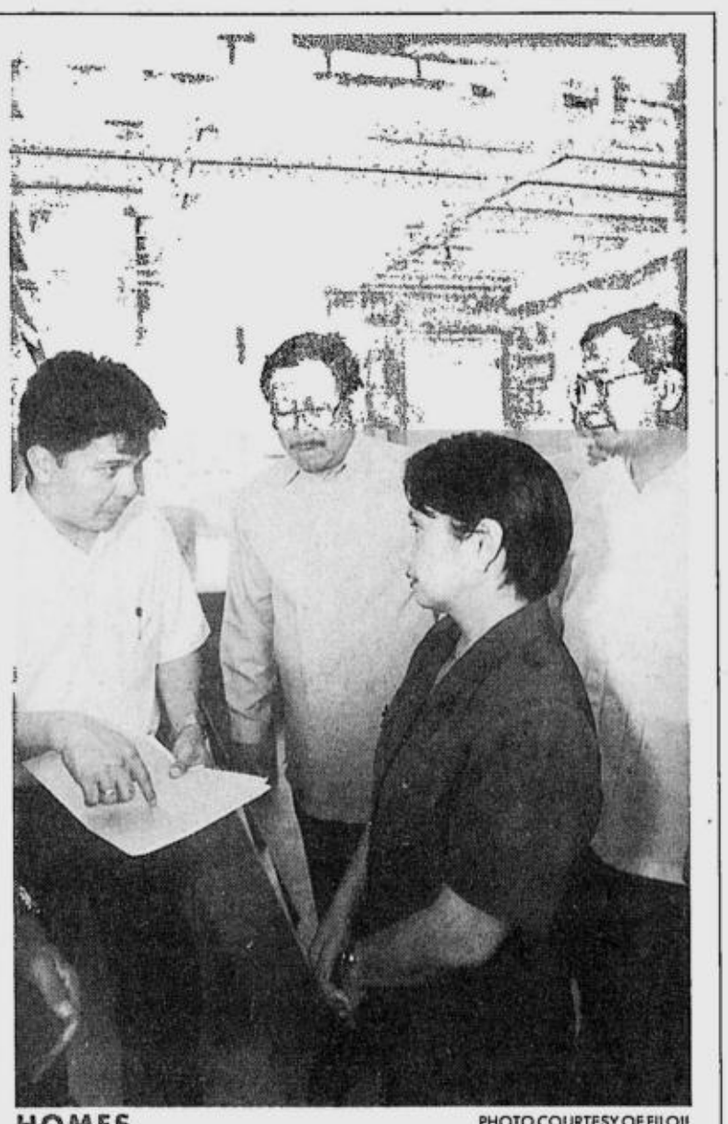
Navarrete said he would press charges against Yuson.

In the meantime, he said he was hoping that his younger brother Romy could find ways to raise money so he could settle his hospital bill.

More than a year ago, Navarrete was also brought to a hospital after an unidentified man stabbed him.

His hospital bills exceeded P200,000 but his family and friends later managed to raise the money. ***Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Mayor gives firm ultimatum to uproot Bt-corn



HOMES PHOTO COURTESY OF FILOIL

Housing Secretary Michael Defensor gives President Macapagal-Arroyo a briefing on the housing project of the Philippine National Oil Co.-Filoil built on property owned by the PNOC in Cavite. With the President are Energy Secretary Vincent Perez and (center) PNOC chair Thelmo Cunanan. The project is designed to benefit at least 3,000 homeless families currently living on the PNOC property.

ILAGAN, Isabela—Mayor Delfinito Albano has ordered the agricultural firm Monsanto-Philippines here to explain why it defied a local council moratorium on the field trials of the *Bacillus thuringiensis*-injected corn (Bt-corn) in the town.

Albano also asked the firm to stop the tests and uproot the Bt-corn plants in an experimental farm in Barangay Alinguigan 2nd here.

He said if the firm ignored the local government's requests, they would file a case against it for defying the moratorium.

The Anti-GMO Alliance of Isabela (Agmais), whose members are opposing the Bt-corn field testing in the province, has asked Albano to cut short his two-week ultimatum on Monsanto. But the mayor said he would give Monsanto enough time to submit a "written answer."

He said he is discouraging the church and militant groups that are opposing the tests from uprooting the Bt-corn plants.

"If they (Monsanto) will insist on continuing the (Bt-corn trial), this will be a test case in court," he said.

"This issue has put me in a hot seat but I believe they (Monsanto officials) are very professional to answer the issues we have raised," he said.

Earlier, Agmais urged local leaders to order the uprooting of Bt-corn plants that were planted in Barangay Alinguigan 2nd on Dec. 28.

Dr. Victor Alpuerto, Monsanto product development executive, has reiterated an earlier statement that the dry-season field trials in Alinguigan 2nd in Ilagan, Villaluna in Cauayan City and Carulay in Echague town have been approved by the National Committee on Biosafety, the highest regulatory body on the safety of biotechnology.

He said their trials are "under the strict monitoring of the Bureau of Plant Industry-Plant Quarantine Service and the local Institutional Biosafety Committee, as prescribed in the approval of the NCBP."

"While Monsanto understands the concerns of various sectors regarding the field tests, it maintains that it has complied with all the required rulings," said Noel Borlongan, Monsanto-Philippines government and public affairs director.

Even with a resolution from the village leaders and support from farmers, Albano said Monsanto's NCBP permit should not supersede the council resolution on the moratorium.

Albano said the firm should convince the councilors to reverse their stand on the moratorium.

He expressed fears that protesters would go to the trial site and uproot the plants if Monsanto would not heed his appeal.

The councilors authorized Albano to file charges against Monsanto for the "blatant defiance" of the moratorium imposed by the council. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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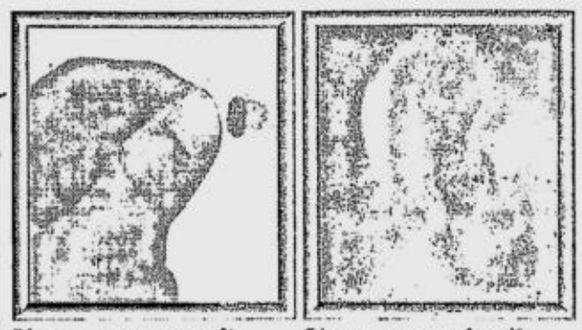

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Mayor's backers block highway

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Supporters of Mayor Wilfredo Bataga of Kabacan, North Cotabato on Friday blocked portions of the Cotabato-Davao and General Santos City-Bukidnon highway to protest the Commission on Elections' decision annulling his proclamation.

Rubber tires were set on fire along the 800-meter portion of the highway at 7:30 a.m. Friday.

Classes were suspended in public schools beside the highway while several business establishments closed shop in anticipation of a possible clash between Bataga's supporters and that of his closest rival, mayoral candidate Luz Tan.

Insp. Elde Magbanua, Kabacan police chief, said the rally was peaceful.

"What we are closely watching (for) is possible sabotage by some groups," he said in a radio interview here.

Kabacan, known to be Mindanao's rice granary and center of agricultural studies, plays a major role in the transport of commerce and trade from Davao to Cotabato and from General Santos to Cagayan de Oro City via Bukidnon.

The Comelec earlier annulled Bataga's proclamation after the poll body expressed suspicion that election returns in 72 precincts were manufactured.

Minus the questioned election returns, Tan will come out winner in the May elections.

Bataga forwarded a motion for reconsideration and a petition for a temporary restraining order before the Supreme Court. His camp was expecting an order to be handed down Wednesday but it didn't come.

This prompted Bataga's supporters, numbering about 1,500, to set up barricades on portions of the highway, which is near the town hall.

A team of soldiers from the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion was dispatched to help the police keep the peace. ***Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Accident Coverage	1,000,000		1,500,000		2,000,000	
Insurance Age	Annual Premium in Pesos	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium in Pesos	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium in Pesos	Self Support Year*
18	6,100	15	8,900	15	11,700	15
20	6,335	15	9,253	15	12,170	15
25	6,925	14	10,138	14	13,350	14
30	7,935	14	11,653	13	15,370	13
35	8,955	13	13,183	13	17,410	13
40	11,090	14	16,385	13	21,680	13
45	13,305	14	19,708	14	26,110	14
50	17,400	16	25,850	16	34,300	16
55	21,955	16	32,683	16	43,410	16

Note: Package includes Waiver of Premium (Female Rates) and Accident & Health (Twice Face Amount) riders

LIFE SHIELD DOLLAR 9/11

Lifetime Coverage	$10,000		$15,000		$25,000	
Insurance Age	Annual Premium in US Dollars	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium in US Dollars	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium in US Dollars	Self Support Year*
18	122.30	15	173.45	14	275.75	13
20	128.80	15	183.20	14	292.00	13
25	144.70	14	207.05	13	331.75	13
30	176.60	13	254.90	13	411.50	12
35	215.70	13	313.55	13	509.25	13
40	271.60	13	397.40	12	649.00	12
45	338.40	13	497.60	12	816.00	12
50	425.10	12	627.65	12	1,032.75	12
55	532.20	13	788.30	13	1,300.50	13

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Express Application Form

PROPOSED INSURED

Surname	Given Name	Middle Name
Aliases	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
Sex O Male O Female	Age	Height
Civil Status O Single O Married O Widow O Separated		Weight
Residence Address		Telephone No.
Business Address		Bus. Tel. No.
Specific Occupation and Duties		Annual Income
Relationship of Proposed Insured to Owner Payor (if applicable)		
PRODUCT NAME O Life Shield 9/11 O Life Shield Dollar 9/11 O Life Protect 9/11		
AMOUNT OF COVERAGE	RIDER (if applicable)	
Beneficiary's Name		Age

OWNER / PAYOR

Surname	Given Name	Middle Name
Aliases	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
Sex O Male O Female	Age	Height
Civil Status O Single O Married O Widow O Separated		Weight
Residence Address		Telephone No.
Business Address		Bus. Tel. No.
Specific Occupation and Duties		Annual Income
MODE OF PAYMENT O Annual O Semi-annual O Quarterly O MSA/BPS O SMPDC		
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Relationship to P.I.	Name of Trustee (if beneficiary is below 18)	

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C. During the past 5 years, has the PI or O/P consulted any physician for medical treatment, or been confined in a hospital, clinic or similar institutions?	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No
D. Does the PI or O/P engage in motorcycle / motorboat / auto racing, sky diving, scuba diving or other hazardous avocations?	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No

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Owner's Signature
Signed at
Date Signed
Agent's Name & Signature
Agent's Code
Agent's Contact No.
APPLICATION NO.
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INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

Basilan's 'fountain of literacy'

BY ALEXANDER M. YOUNG
Zamboanga City

WHILE many may argue that Juan Ponce de Leon wasted his life and career searching for the elusive "Fountain of Youth," the Spanish conquistador is still remembered as among the most successful explorers of all time.

The Fountain of Youth, of course, eluded Ponce de Leon until his death, and the tale of his almost delirious obsession for Eden's "Water of Life" overshadowed his successes, like his conquest of Puerto Rico and Florida. Yet, like any other great explorer, Ponce de Leon never ceased to dream. Even until his death.

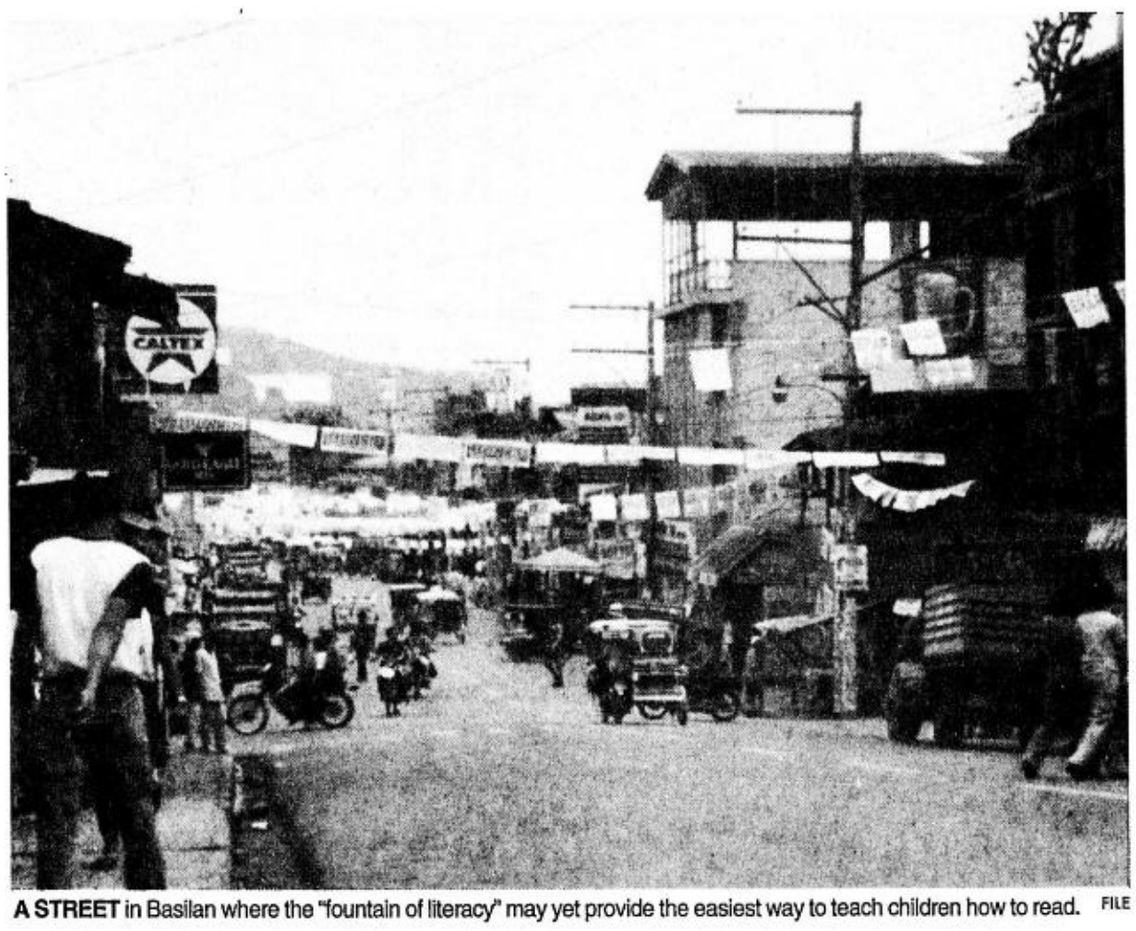
But unlike him, a visionary from an island called Basilan (Yes, Abu Sabaya's Basilan) who used to chase rainbows assaying a way of making instant readers out of the indigenous Yakans, Subanons and Samals of this region, has found his "fountain of literacy" in the form of a book, which he says would "stamp out illiteracy among Filipinos and generally enable one to master the art of reading English."

Veteran local journalist Felino M. Santos, who has also performed the nobler vocations of teaching, studying mysticism and nursing stray dogs in his neighborhood, said he was excited when the first edition of his "Reading (Made Easy) Manual" came off the presses weeks ago.

The textbook, which took him just a few months to write, was published under his own Linus Publishing House.

A classroom teacher from 1964 to 1976 and a full-time journalist since 1977, Santos has drawn upon his writing skills to craft this "unique technique of teaching the art of reading for beginning English readers."

"We have manuals to operate electronic equipment and the like, why not a manual to enable a pupil to systematically learn to read," Santos said.



A STREET in Basilan where the "fountain of literacy" may yet provide the easiest way to teach children how to read. FILE

A CIGARETTE vendor in Basilan, one of the potential beneficiaries of the how-to-read manual. FILE

Unfortunately, he said, most books available in schools "mistakenly" assume that the child can already read, and he is exposed to reading materials without first going through the "ABCs of reading." Thus, "illiterates are part of our society these days."

There is a high degree of illiteracy among residents in the country today. The highest illiteracy rate is here in Western Mindanao at 18.7 percent, based on the 1995 census. This means that on the average, there are over 187,000 people who cannot read for every one million people in the region. The census basis for this figure is the number of people who did not get to school, and does not include those who dropped out of school but cannot read and understand English.

Santos said he has heard of complaints from some teachers about the textbooks they use for teaching reading to elementary kids. They say most books are too hard for the pupils to use. The arrangement of the lessons is complicated for the child to learn to read English with minimum coaching from the teacher.

The manual incorporates principles which the author says "make up a revolutionary technique that is easy for tutor and teacher alike."

The manual teaches reading in a simplified manner. This is done by exposing the beginning reader to only a few letters of the alphabet at one time.

"There is no law which says that we cannot teach reading with only a few letters at a time. This manual starts with seven letters combined to form nine simple words," Santos claimed.

New letters are introduced gradually and the reader "touches base" at page 152 with the letter Z.

"There is an average of 200 days in school a year to master the 164 pages of the manual. So they could easily master a page a day," he said.

Word recognition is strengthened by the repetition of words already learned. New words are formed out of letters, which are introduced on a staggered basis "to avoid confusion of shapes, forms and sounds."

"By the time the reader reaches the last page of the manual, he or she will have mastered all the 26 letters of the alphabet and possess a reading vocabulary of over 700 words and numbers," he said.

These include the 220 "Basic Sight-Reading Words."

A former school principal himself, Santos said most textbooks lack continuity. The reader must wait for another year or months before he can proceed to the next grade level. "The manual does away with this deficiency," he said.

The book, which is fully illustrated, also incorporates features, which he said are not available in textbooks of current use today.

"All our efforts to alleviate conditions of society would be of no avail, if the citizen, on his own, cannot even read and understand what he can do to help himself," the author, who also edits SunStar Zamboanga, said.

But does a concise yet effective textbook published in Zamboanga, with its tall promise of "stamping out illiteracy," have a chance of being sold to schools and penetrating the well-guarded institutions whose book supplies are controlled and monopolized by Manila-based publishing houses?

Well, Santos is optimistic he could triumph over the giants of the publishing industry, like another visionary, Don Quixote de la Mancha, who tussled with similar monsters, although they were but giant windmills.

"It may not be easy. But I believe we could do it. What will sell the book is the book itself," Santos said.

But this Don Quixote of Basilan, who has spent most of his professional life in Zamboanga, leaves nothing to mere imagination.

"We will soon distribute copies of the book in bookstores. We'll start locally, but I hope parents could soon get the manual from the shelf of any bookstore in the country."

And how to convince the schools? This early, Santos said his authorized representatives would introduce the manual to concerned educational institutions.

"Insha'llah, school officials will give it a thought," he prayed.

Bored housewife transforms pastel into booming business in Camiguin

BY GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN
Mambajao, Camiguin

NO ONE leaves Camiguin without the pastel, the pastry that has generated jobs for the locals on the island.

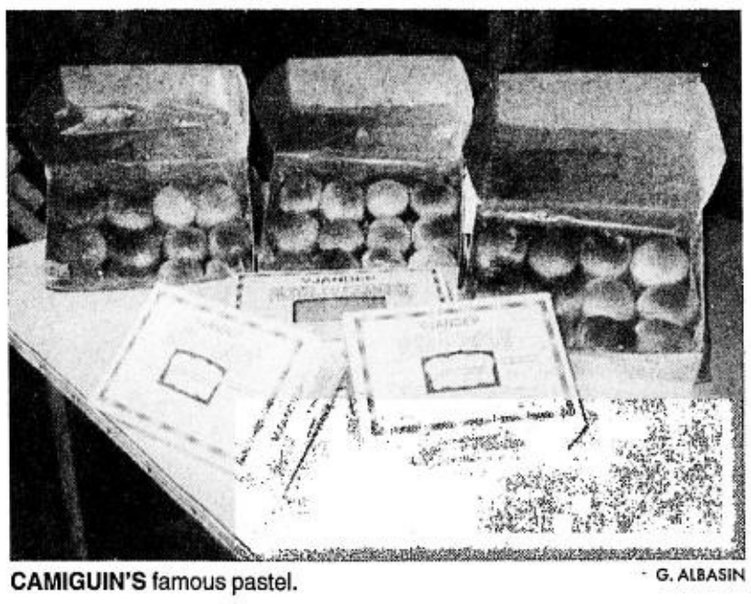
Everybody who goes to Camiguin brings with them home Vjandep—the pastel of various fillings like the classic yema, durian, pineapple, langka, mango, ube, macapuno, guava, strawberry, cheese, pork adobo and the new doubly special yema.

Eleonor Popera-Jose, the owner of Vjandep, said she started with pastel-making out of boredom since she opted to stay home and take care of the children.

"While waiting for my husband to come home, I figured out I have to be productive," Ella, as fondly called by everyone, said.

She said pastel-making has since become a source of income that has given her family financial stability as she acquired property and provided better education for her children.

Pastel-making in Ella's family can be traced back to her ancestors. But it was in her generation that pastel has been successfully brought into the market in huge volumes. Her relatives baked it only during festivities.



CAMIGUIN'S famous pastel. G. ALBASIN

WORKERS prepare the pastel in Ella's shop in Camiguin. G. ALBASIN

From P120

She started with a capital of P120 on Jan. 8, 1990. That money was what was left of her husband's Christmas bonus.

"I made only three dozens. My aunt sold it in the market by piece and she marked the price up. I sold it to her at P40 per dozen. I was very happy that I got the capital back even if I did not get a profit but the fact that the three dozens of pastel with the classic yema filling in it were sold out, I felt there was indeed a chance to get it through," Ella said.

The next day she baked again, earning a net of P30.

She recycled empty tins of evaporated canned milk for her molders. She used a steel drum as oven, coconut husks to fuel it and a feather of a rooster as pastry brush.

"I really started from scrap. For six months, I was using the recycled equipment in order to bake pastel," she recalled.

From a kilo of flour a day, she started baking five kilos. Then more.

Months later, Ella learned about the Department of Trade and Industry's program "Tulong Sa Tao (TST)" that gave out loans to small and medium entrepreneurs. She borrowed P25,000 and bought the baking equipment she needed like aluminum molders, baking trays, hand mixers and real pastry brushes.

"With that loan, I was then able to buy ingredients good for one week. It was about 10 bags of flour then but before that I bought ingredients for the next day's bake," she said.

The TST loan was payable in two years but Ella was able to pay it before deadline, allowing her to borrow another P25,000.

She availed of the TST thrice until the Spanish Assistance Integrated Livelihood (SAIL) came to help the province during the term of Gov. Antonietto Gallardo.

The province lent her P100,000 at a very minimal interest of 2 percent per annum and payable in three years. Ella paid it before it was due.

She now has five ovens, a warmer and a dough-kneader that is good for a bag of flour, dough rollers, freezers, hundreds of utensils. She also has 17 regular employees, including her sister and aunt who are helping her keep the recipe. Ella's mother is also helping her. Six workers are hired as casuals.

She personally manages the production of pastel but has also delegated her sister and aunt to take care of it once she is in Cagayan de Oro where she has opened another branch.

Ella has other products aside from the famous pastel, like the *torta*, bread, cookies, baked *siopao* and cakes.

But she insists that she has never sacrificed the quality of the pastel.

"I'd rather sacrifice the profit margin than the size and the quality of the products sold in the market. The Bible says we have to be honest when dealing business in order to gain," she said.

Ella disclosed that she has been updating her baking competence every summer by enrolling and joining baking seminars and added that she keeps on innovating to improve the products she sells.

The pastel's shelf-life is only five days without refrigeration since Ella never used additives and preservatives.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has recognized the pastel as a product which Camiguin can call as its own.

The DOST is helping Ella to lengthen the shelf-life of her pastel by loaning out an equipment that will limit the direct contact of bare hands with food, which shortens the shelf-life of any processed food.

Ella's average daily production of pastel in Camiguin is at 100 to 150 dozens on lean months. She bakes 500 to 700 dozens of pastels daily during peak season.

The Vjandep pastel has been joining food and trade fairs in the cities of Davao, Cebu and Manila but Ella prefers joining trade fairs in nearby cities since it costs less than bringing her products to Manila and spending much for freight.

Awards

Ella was awarded the "Gawad Microentrepreneur" of the DTI in the region on Aug. 5, 1997. She also received recognition for generating jobs, uplifting living standards and for her contribution to the vitality of the Philippine countryside.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) has nominated Ella for the Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

For Ella, any negative remark she hears about her products is a challenge.

"I consider any negative remarks as a challenge and that makes me work real hard to achieve the quality of my products. I try my best to innovate like the new durian and doubly special yema fillings so that our customers will have new flavors to taste. At the moment, Jvandep has a competitor but it only has the yema filling," she said.

But Ella wants pastel to be just as it is—a product of Camiguin.

"I am content with its current market. I have already trained my children to manage it so that during their time they will be able to continue it," Ella said.

Don't do an Erap, GMA told

(From page A1)

On Jan. 11, Ramos publicly rebuked Enriquez and Linda Montayre, both leaders of the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA), for being highly critical of the President.

Ramos had said that he called up Enriquez and told the latter: "Why don't you just stick to your job as adviser and consultant" of Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte. He said he also told Enriquez "not to involve me in what you are doing."

He had also distanced himself from Enriquez and the PCA, saying they were not working under him. He also disclaimed involvement in the statements made by them, saying: "As the Bible says, am I my brother's keeper?"

Prioritizing the economy

As president, Ramos was credited with carrying out crucial economic reforms and restoring foreign investor confidence in the country.

But due to the economic slump last year, more than 60,000 workers lost their jobs with 500 companies closing shop. Persistent rumors of coups and a rise in kidnappings have made the present administration's task of attracting foreign investments more difficult.

Other Philippine commentators have also criticized Ms Macapagal for her alleged focus on the 2004 presidential elections. The President has rejected the criticism, citing her economic achievements over the past year in office.

Although the Constitution bars presidents from reelection, Ms Macapagal is not covered because she is serving the four years of Estrada's unfinished tenure.

Coup rumors

On the coup rumors that regularly sweep Manila, Ramos told The Straits Times: "It's probably coming from those looking fondly on 2004 but certainly not from me. It degrades the modest legacy I would like to leave."

He added: "I hope that people will appreciate the fact that I'm devoting my time to my duties as a responsible senior citizen."

He also said that he was not seeking a bigger role in the present administration or a bigger say in the administration party, Lakas.

"If you want to have a bigger say, you need to spend for it. I cannot afford to spend anymore for political work," Ramos said. ***With a report from AFP***

Gloria sings tribute to soldiers, cops

BY TJ BURGONIO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo last night sang a couple of love songs as tribute to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police for their key role in last year's "Edsa II."

A jovial Ms Arroyo, wearing a black military cap and vest, sang Karen Carpenter's "I Have You" before a bevy of military and police officials and a crowd of 2,500 military and policemen at the AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

She later sang "My Love Will See You Through" in a duet with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Before she launched into a song, the President said she had a message for the AFP and the PNP for supporting the bloodless people's revolt that led to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada. But that she would rather sing it than deliver it in a speech.

"To thank you, I'm supposed to make a speech. But a speech isn't appropriate during a boodle fight. During boodle fights, you usually sing," she told the crowd. "So don't mind if I'm out of tune; but listen to the words. I have chosen this song."

While singing "I Have You," she pointed to the crowd of soldiers each time she reached the part: "I have you to save my day." This gesture drew applause from the crowd.

After the couple of songs, Ms Macapagal engaged Reyes, PNP chief Leandro Mendoza, AFP chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and some Cabinet officials in a "boodle fight."

Served was a mixture of sardines, *pancit bihon* and *laing*.

The boodle fight, a military tradition aimed at promoting camaraderie among officials and soldiers, was held to mark the day the military withdrew support from Estrada on Jan. 19 last year, which was seen as the turning point of the people's revolt.

Ms Macapagal arrived at past 7 and then left after 30 minutes.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, January 20, 2002
Feast of the Santo Niño

1st Reading: **Is 9:1-6**

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light. A light has dawned on those who live in the land of the shadow of death. You have enlarged the nation; you have increased their joy. They rejoice before you, as people rejoice at harvest time as they rejoice in dividing the spoil. For the yoke of their burden, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressors, you have broken it as on the day of Midian. Every warrior's boot that tramped in war, every cloak rolled in blood; will be thrown out for burning, will serve as fuel for the fire. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; the royal ornament is laid upon his shoulder, and his name is proclaimed: "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." To the increase of his powerful rule in peace, there will be no end. Vast will be his dominion, he will reign on David's throne and over all his kingdom, to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forever. The zealous love of Yahweh Sabath will do this.

2nd Reading: Eph 1:3-6, 15-18

Blessed be God, the Father of Christ Jesus our Lord, who in Christ has blessed us from heaven with every spiritual blessing. God chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and without sin in his presence.

From eternity he destined us in love to be his sons and daughters through Christ Jesus, thus fulfilling his free and generous will. This goal suited him: that his loving-kindness which he granted us in his Beloved might finally receive all glory and praise:

I have been told of your faith and your affection towards all the believers, so I always give thanks to God, remembering you in my prayers.

May the God of Christ Jesus our Lord, the Father of Glory, reveal himself to you and give you a spirit of wisdom, that you may know him. May he enlighten your inner vision, that you may appreciate the things we hope for, since we were called by God.

May you know how great is the inheritance, the glory, God sets apart for his saints.

Gospel: Mt 18:1-5, 10

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked him, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then Jesus called a little child, set the child in the midst of the disciples, and said, "I assure you that unless you change and become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes lowly like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, and whoever receives such a child in my name receives me.

See that you do not despise any of these little ones, for I tell you: their angels in heaven continually see the face of my heavenly Father.

Commentary

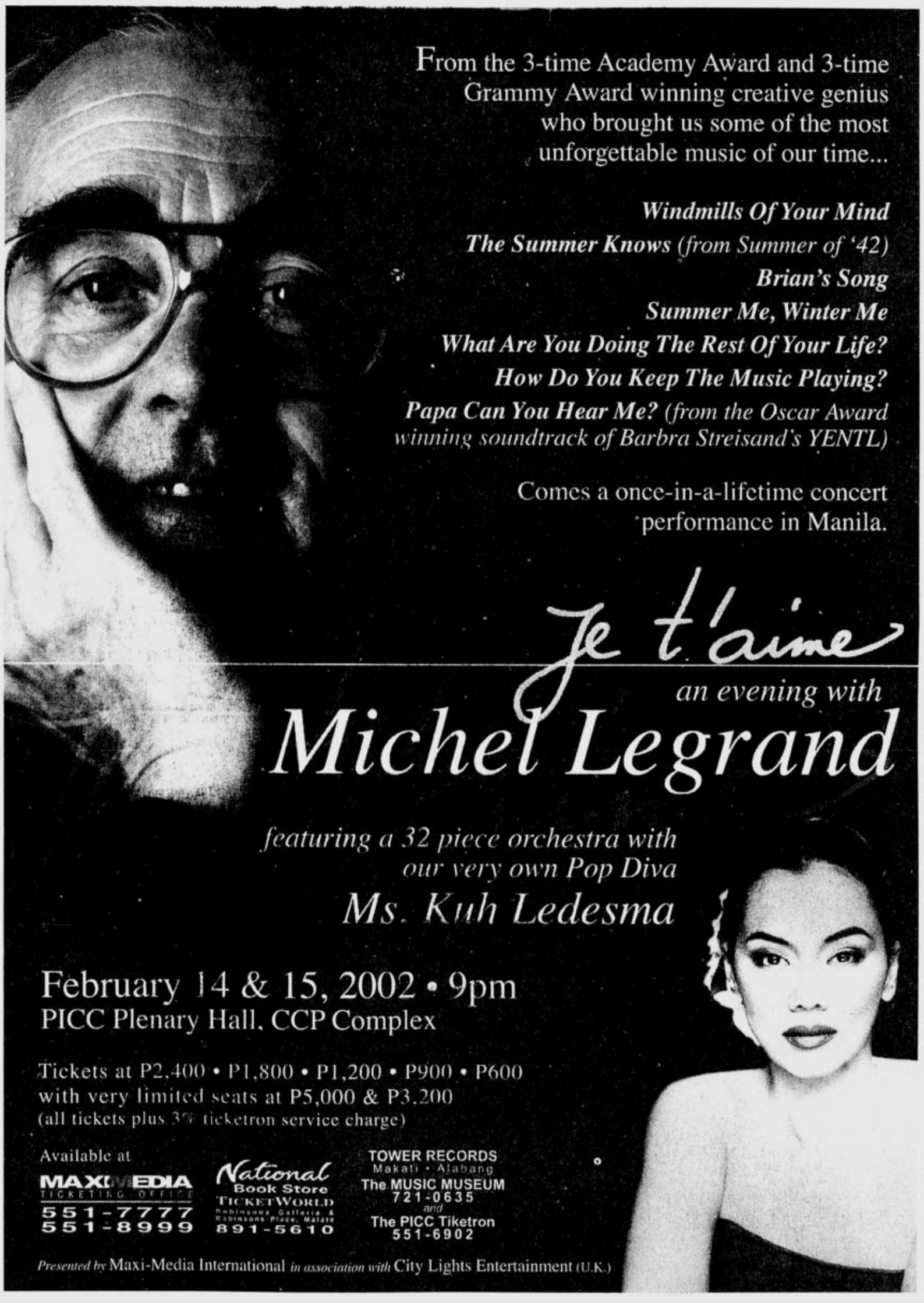
The apostles return to Capernaum, the center of their missionary expeditions. They have preached the Kingdom of God, performed miracles and expelled demons. But they still lack the most important thing: to be humble. "Unless you become like little children, you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Later Jesus passes from "children" to "the little ones" (Mt 18:10), that is, simple people. They are little, because they do not count for much in society, and because their faith is more all embracing than that of people on a higher economic level. In the Philippines we place the Santo Niño image in the center of our churches, houses, offices and business establishments. What about putting in the center of our religious, family and financial concerns the "little ones"? We would not have a new religion but a new country.

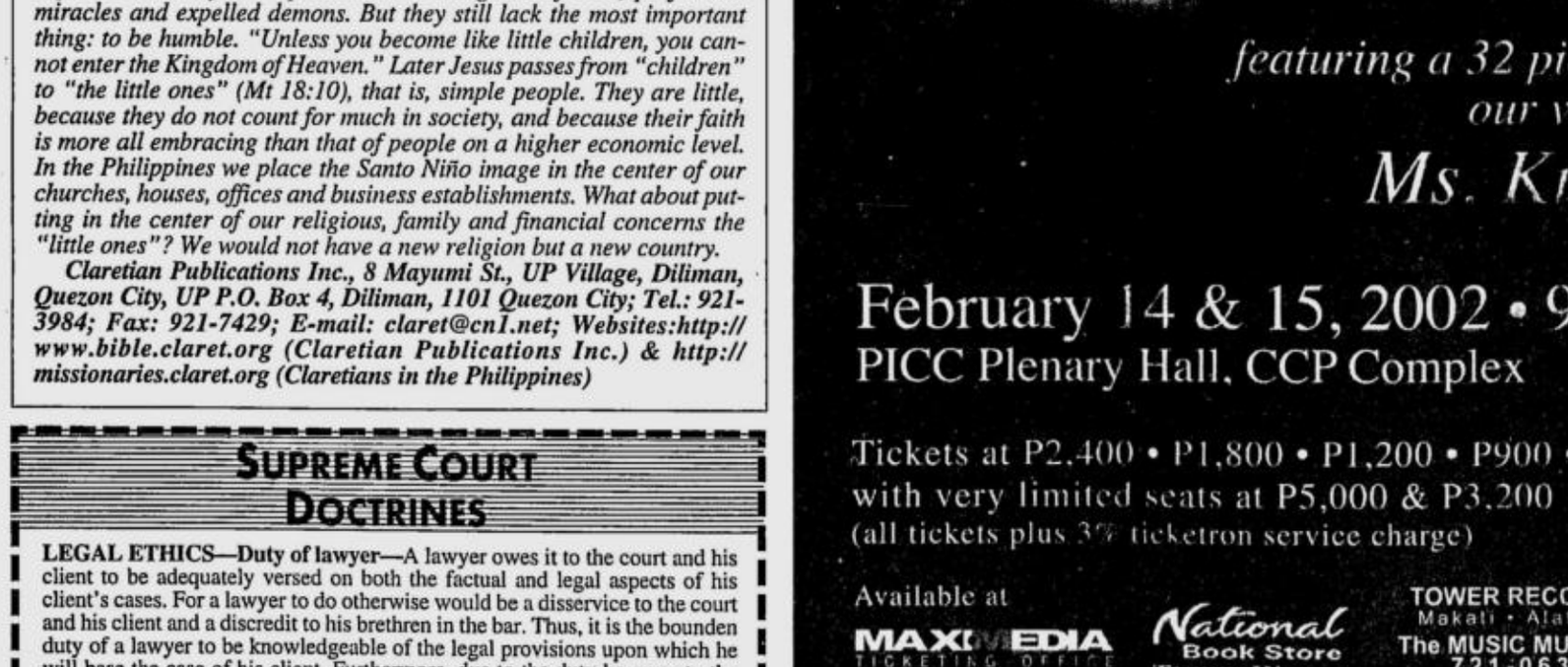
Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LEGAL ETHICS—Duty of lawyer—A lawyer owes it to the court and his client to be adequately versed on both the factual and legal aspects of his client's cases. For a lawyer to do otherwise would be a disservice to the court and his client and a discredit to his brethren in the bar. Thus, it is the bounden duty of a lawyer to be knowledgeable of the legal provisions upon which he will base the case of his client. Furthermore, due to the duty he owes to the court to always observe candor, fairness and good faith, a lawyer is held accountable for the veracity of the legal provisions upon which he anchors his arguments. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, People v. Medenilla, G.R. No. 131638-39, July 12, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA





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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0047, Series of 2002

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

February 3, 2001

MR. AND MRS. EDDIE JOSE

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Jose:

On behalf of the Filipino people, let me thank you for generously hosting at your home the historic meeting among the leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines led by Chief of Staff General Angelo T. Reyes, the three Major Service Commanders, the Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP; Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado; former President Fidel V. Ramos; Congressman Hernani Braganza; Mr. Alex Sembrano; Major General (Ret.) Leo Alvez and myself from noontime to about three-thirty P.M. on January 19, 2001, which led to the announcement at the EDSA Shrine by General Reyes and Secretary Mercado of their withdrawal of support, to include that of the institutions they represented, from then President Joseph Estrada. Those momentous decisions to transfer support and allegiance to me as successor President accelerated and, indeed, actualized the ouster of Mr. Estrada through the exercise of the sovereign power of the Filipino people.

Your critical participation, hospitality, generosity and patriotism will be remembered by the present and future generations of Filipinos who care for their country in their quest for truth, justice, peace and democracy.

Salamat/Mabuhay!!!

GMA

A GRATEFUL President writes the Joses a letter, which has become one of the family treasures.

The house where history was made

(From page A1)

Joseph Estrada.

While waiting for Reyes' decision, Alvez started arranging for a safe house. He instructed some of his men to go to Corinthian Gardens and tell Jose not to leave the house on the pretext that Alvez wanted to have brunch with him.

The Jose residence was the perfect place to hold the powerhouse meeting.

It was in a quiet, secure neighborhood and was spacious enough to hold several people. And it was secure and near the Edsa Shrine where the people were gathered, the Linden Suites where Ms Macapagal was billeted and Camp Aguinaldo.

Jose did not tell anyone in the house that they might have "guests."

When Reyes arrived at about 11:30 a.m., Jose's wife, Alice, had already left the house to treat her granddaughter out to lunch. Their children—Edward and Patricia—and their spouses were at work. The other grandchildren were in the house of an in-law.

Only Jose, his daughter Joanna, his mother-in-law Cristeta "Lola Tetang" Alfonso, and the household help were in.

History in the making

Joanna, now 24, was in her room working at the computer. Her classes at the Ateneo Law School had been called off so the students could join the Edsa rally.

Lola Tetang, now 86, was resting in her bedroom.

Both women had no inkling that history was taking place right inside their house.

Ms Macapagal arrived at 11:45 a.m.

Joanna said she only learned that they had guests when a maid went to her room to relay her father's request for her to go to the living room and take some pictures. She promptly went downstairs, bringing her camera with a partly used roll of film inside.

"I thought that because of what was then happening in Edsa, maybe my Dad had some friends over for coffee or something. Then I saw General Reyes and Gloria. I was so surprised," Joanna recounted to the INQUIRER.

"I had no idea that they were going to meet in our house. I didn't expect it at all," she said.

Inside their enclosed dining room were Ms Macapagal and Reyes. They occupied two of the 10 chairs at the dining table—Ms Macapagal sat at the head of the table, her back to the door, and Reyes was on her left.

The door, made of glass and wood, was closed. No one was allowed to enter.

In the adjacent living room, aides and bodyguards were moving about, waiting for the outcome of the meeting.

Clueless

At around this time, a maid went to Lola Tetang to tell her that Ms Macapagal was in the house. Lola Tetang usually spent most of her time resting in her bedroom, but the opportunity was too good to pass up and so, with a cane on each hand, she went down to the living room.

She sat on a chair about 6 feet from the dining room door and watched Ms Macapagal and Reyes.

Still, she had no idea what was going on. She did not even recognize Reyes.

"I didn't know anything about that. I didn't know what they were talking about. I couldn't hear them," Lola Tetang, speaking in Filipino, recalled.

"I could see Gloria in the dining room. I thought she looked so tense," Lola Tetang said. "She kept going to the comfort room. I think she went four times."

Lola Tetang said she was hardly in touch with the latest events in Edsa.

"I didn't know that because I was sick. I'm usually in bed. I did hear on the radio that people were in Edsa, but then I forgot about all that. *Wala akong kamalay-malay* (I wasn't aware of things)," she said.

Nice gesture

Most of the houseguests greeted Lola Tetang hello, but former President Ramos stopped to talk to her a while.

Joanna found Ramos' gesture nice.

"He asked how old she was, how she was doing," Joanna said.

The awed maids, meanwhile, were busy preparing food and seeing to the needs of their guests. They served Spam sandwiches, chips and Coke.

But the guests hardly touched the food.

"I even offered food to General Reyes but he said '*huwag na,*'" Joanna said.

The atmosphere was just too tense. Even the Joses forgot to take their lunch.

At first, their neighbors and relatives at the Corinthian Gardens did not notice anything unusual. The cars of Ms Macapagal and Reyes and their entourage were parked in the garage, and the white main gate was closed.

But when the military generals arrived before 1 p.m., their cars could not be accommodated in the garage anymore and these had to be parked on the street.

'What's happening?'

That prompted some relatives who lived in the subdivision to call up the Jose residence.

"What's happening in your house? Why are there so many cars?" they asked Joanna.

"It's nothing, there's just a meeting going on," she told them.

Irene, her friend from law school, also called. She was supposed to pick up Joanna so they could go to the rally at Edsa.

"Can we go now?" Irene asked Joanna.

"Uh, I can't leave yet because there are visitors in the house," Joanna replied.

Then Irene saw the cars outside the Jose residence.

"Jo, is that General Reyes inside your house?"

"Yeah, that's why I can't leave yet," Joanna told her.

After the 35-minute meeting with Reyes, Ms Macapagal left the dining room to let Reyes talk with Estrada over the phone to inform the soon-to-be-ousted President of the AFP chief's decision.

Ms Macapagal waited at the foyer—sometimes talking on her cell phone, at times speaking to those in her entourage.

Reyes met the generals after he spoke with Estrada. Then the group and Ms Macapagal proceeded to a living room at the opposite end of the dining room and talked some more.

On radio

As things were winding down, some reporters learned about the meeting and started broadcasting on the radio that top military officers were meeting in a house in Corinthian Gardens.

"We were so scared when we heard that on the radio because at that time, things were still so unsure. You didn't know what was going to happen," Joanna said.

"We were sort of praying that they would leave already," she laughed. "Get on with it already because in case something goes wrong . . ."

At 3:50 p.m., after a short prayer at the foyer, Ms Macapagal donned a bulletproof vest, and all the "guests" left for the Edsa Shrine.

"It was a relief when they left," Joanna said.

Inside the once more placid house, the Joses and the maids compared notes about their guests. They also couldn't wait to have the film in Joanna's camera developed.

The household also explained to Lola Tetang what went on and why the Vice President was in their house meeting with the generals. It was only then that she finally understood what had transpired.

"I said, 'So that's what it was,'" Lola Tetang related.

"It was only then that I realized the danger we were all in," she said.

Thanksgiving

Two weeks after Ms Macapagal assumed the presidency, the Joses hosted a thanksgiving party in their house with their Jan. 19 guests in attendance. The atmosphere was festive and triumphant.

And to show her appreciation for what the Joses did for the nation, Ms Macapagal wrote them a letter, part of which read:

"Your critical participation, hospitality, generosity and patriotism will forever be remembered by the present and future generation of Filipinos who care deeply for their country in their quest for truth, justice, peace and democracy."

'Core group' holds reunion minus a few

(From page A1)

the boardroom at the fourth floor—which Ms Macapagal and her advisers used in those tense but heady days—as the "Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Room."

After a little over an hour, a smiling President prepared to leave the hotel.

"Oh, it was a very simple get-together," she told reporters who had been made to wait at the lobby. "I unveiled the marker and they renamed the boardroom (after me). Then we just had *merienda*."

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, was not around to provide reporters details of the afternoon snack, as well as the dynamics of the gathering.

Asked who among those missing she would have wanted to see there, Ms Macapagal mentioned only one name—that of Renato de Villa.

She said she felt bad that her former executive secretary did not make it. She noted that he played an important role serving as such even before she assumed office on Jan. 20 last year.

De Villa is undergoing medical treatment abroad. He is reportedly due back at the end of the month.

Names and faces

The man who blew the crucial whistle on Estrada, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, was not present at yesterday's reunion.

Other key People Power II players who were not spotted were former Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, his wife Margarita, and Pastor "Boy" Saycon—all of the Council for Philippine Affairs.

But Clarissa Ocampo, star witness at Estrada's impeachment trial, was there, as were former President Fidel V. Ramos, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo, and former Presidential Management Staff chief Vicky Garchitorena.

Also seen were Dodie Limcaoco; Renato Corona, the President's chief of staff; Education Secretary Raul Roco; Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman; Interior Secretary Joey Lina; Director General Leandro Mendoza of the Philippine National Police; and Chief Supt. Hermogenes Ebdane.

The other notables present were Winston Garcia, Rene Valencia, Ramon del Rosario, presidential adviser Paul Dominguez and his brother Sonny Dominguez, who owns the hotel.

The marker said that in the weeks before and during People Power II, the hotel was the site "where a broad popular coalition was organized to oppose a discredited administration."

"It was here that strategies were formed, momentous decisions were taken, and millions were mobilized . . . During those historic days, this was the fulcrum on which power shifted," it declared.

"In the afternoon of Jan. 20, immediately after she was sworn into the highest office of the Republic, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo returned to The Linden Suites to begin the great task of rebuilding governance in this country," it added.

Tribute to workers

In Cebu City where she delivered a speech at the 12th National Supreme Congress of the Associated Labor Union (ALU), the President urged the public to follow her cue and celebrate People Power II even if they were not Metro Manila residents.

She said that she had been going around the country as part of the government-led anniversary rites, and that she chose to be with the ALU because it was among the active players of the movement that led to the ouster of her predecessor Joseph Estrada.

"I chose to celebrate the anniversary with the ALU because I want to underscore the fact that people power involves not only personalities like myself but also the great Filipino workers," she said in Filipino.

The President also said Filipino workers would benefit from the programs of her administration because they were the forces behind People Power II.

She pointed out that her administration had been able to create about 2 million jobs in one year.

She aired the assurance that this year would be the year of the labor sector because she would push for the medium-term development plan involving the creation of jobs and improvement of working conditions.

With a report from Debra Jane Magallon, PDI Visayas Bureau

YOU makes Gloria smile

(From page A1)

Macapagal they were through with power-grabs.

They presented the President a two-page manifesto signed by 71 officers from the ranks of majors to colonels. Saying that they were no longer the "young officers of yesteryears," the originals who staged the most destructive coup attempt against then President Aquino in December 1989, also told the President they will "fight to the death" any coup plotters.

They said in their manifesto that those who claim to speak for the YOU were "mere rabble rousers" and "political operators."

They said they have buried the YOU when they signed a peace pact with the government in 1995.

"People who continue to perpetuate the specter of YOU have only less than noble intentions for this hoax," it added.

"Let this manifesto put an end to all issues on the YOU. Let us not resurrect the dead. Let it rest in peace and undesecrated."

Her smile never faltering, Ms Macapagal praised the former coup ringleaders for their "courage and integrity" in speaking up.

"These officers will help finally put to rest all these baseless rumors and even media reports of coups and destabilization plots," she said.

"Their statement should mark everyone's realization that coup attempts in our country is a thing of the past, that it is ancient history," she added as Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Interior Secretary Joey Lina and Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva approvingly looked on.

Where were Cardeño, Valeroso?

Nineteen YOU founders led by Col. Danilo Lim, deputy regimental commander of the First Scout Ranger regiment, Special Operations Command, Lt. Col. Ariel Querubin, Marines deputy brigade commander, Col. Cesar de la Peña, Joint Command General Staff College and retired Army Col. Abraham Purugganan of the Scout Rangers came to see the President around 4:30 p.m.

But Supt. Rafael Cardeño, who says he is the YOU chair, and Supt. Diosdado Valeroso, who says he is a founding leader, were not around. They were not among the manifesto's signatories.

When asked about this, Lim told reporters that Cardeño and Valeroso "are not here right now but having been members just like us of that defunct organization, we are very confident that they will abide by and fully support this manifesto," he said.

Lim, who signed the 1995 peace pact with the Ramos administration on behalf of the military rebels, added that "YOU effectively ceased to exist as of the signing of the agreement . . . So, there are no chairmen, no spokesmen because it's simply defunct," he claimed.

Who's who

The active YOU officers are now occupying important middle-level positions in the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces.

Of the eight battalions deployed in Sulu and Basilan, at least six are led by former YOU members.

Col. Ariel Querubin, leader of the rebel Marines that attacked Camp Aguinaldo in December 1989, is set to assume the Marines brigade in Luuk, Jolo.

The 4th Scout Ranger Battalion in Jolo, which is now up against a staunchly pro-Misuari community, is commanded by former YOU officer, Major Eduardo Devalan.

In Basilan where the troops are ranged against the Abu Sayyaf, both the Marines, Scout Rangers and Army battalions based there are led by former YOU officers.

Major Carlos Galvez and Lt, Col. Reynato Padua head the Scout Rangers; Lt. Col. Arman Bañez is the battalion commander of the 5th Marine Landing Battalion, while Lt. Col. Rey Ordoñez leads the 10th IB of the Army.

At the Southcom Col. Rolando Detabali oversees the operations as Operations officer. The Marines operations in Southern Philippines is also supervised by Col. Juancho Sabban of the Marines.

In the days following the 1989 coup, the government offered rewards ranging from 300,000 to 500,000 for information leading to the arrests of Querubin, Padua, Sabban, Bañez and Ordoñez.

During the 10-day mutiny in December 1989, Lim and Purruganan led some 500 mutinous Rangers take over Makati as rebel Marines led by De la Peña and Querubin attacked Camp Aguinaldo. The 10-day mutiny left a hundred civilians and soldiers dead, and hundreds injured.

Coup links

The YOU has frequently been linked to destabilization plots against the one-year-old Macapagal administration.

In October, the President summoned Cardeño and Valeroso to the Palace to deny the rumors.

These rumors became more credible after an ex-lieutenant, Baron Cervantes, who claimed to be a YOU spokesperson, was murdered on Dec.31, just after he alleged that some active and retired military men were planning to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

Cervantes murder

A reporter asked why they had not come forward earlier specially after the YOU was linked to the Cervantes murder.

Purugganan said they did not want to compromise the careers of their members.

"We do not like to disturb the individual efforts of the members to be back in the service. We came out in the open to clarify issues and stop speculations on what we really are and intention of this group," he said.

Lim said they are "very willing" to help in the investigation of Cervantes' murder "individually and collectively."

In their manifesto, they said they "decided to disclose to the public our identities at this important time, so there can be no question as to the sentiments of the organization once called the YOU."

The YOU founders said they were glad to be given a second chance in the PNP and in the military.

"As officers, soldiers and law enforcers, we warn plotters and destabilizers that we shall fight to the death such conspiracies against the people, the Constitution, the government and the State. This is our sworn duty and we shall abide by it," they added.

The manifesto was also signed by Col. Jose Gamos, deputy executive director for operations on Cabinet oversight committee; Col. Rolando Detabali, Operations chief, Southcom; Col. Juancho Sabban, deputy commander, Philippine Marines Forces South Philippines; Col. Herbet Avinante, chief, Army Marksmanship Training Unit; Senior Supt. Reynaldo Rafal, PNP Albay provincial director; Senior Supt. Boogie Calungsod, PNP Zambales provincial director; Senior Supt. Perry Bucsit; Lt. Col. Arman Bañez; Lt. Col. Reynaldo Ordonez; Lt.Col. Reynato Padua; Maj. Eduardo Devalan; and Major Carlos Galvez, all commanders of battalions deployed in Sulu and Basilan.

And battalion commanders Lt. Col Essel Soriano, 2nd Mechanized IB in Awang, Cotabato; Lt. Col. Glorioso Miranda, 25th IB in Davao Sur; Lt.Col. Cutiyog, 3rd Light Armor Battalion; Maj. John Aying;

Lt. Col. Nestor Flordeliza, Rescom Bohol; Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, Chief of Police, San Juan; Lt. Col. Roberto Rocio, Signal Corps; Lt. Col. Allen Capuyan, Department of National Defense; Lt.Col. Bong Amon, Phil. Air Force; Lt. Col. Roberto Caldeo, Arescom; Lt. Col. Celestino Pereyra, CGC; Lt.Col. Basilio Calimag; Lt. Col. Feliz Calimag; Lt. Col. Faustino Dantes; Lt. Col. Dionisio Pelovello; and Supt. Rolando Purugganan;

Majors Noel Buan, Romulo Gualdrapa, Gener del Rosario, Corleto Vinluan, Gregorio Tomas, Paul Sumayo, Francis Carangdang, Ramon Yogyog, Teodoro Llamas, Gene Mariano, Napoleon Mabalot, Rolando Cailing, Cristobal Zaragosa, Gerry Amante, Rolando Bautista, Ricardo Nepomuceno, Oliver Veslino, Rey Acorda, Robert Pierre Pel, Major Eugene Metrio, Edgardo de Leon, Fernando Gomez, Raymundo Liwag, James Joven, Norberto Lambot, Edmundo Malabanjot;

The retired officers who signed: Maj. Abraham Purugganan; Lt.Col. Rogelio Bonifacio; Lt. Col. Gil Nacino; Lt. Col. Jose Agdeppa; Maj. Florencio Flores; Capt. Albert Yen; Major Philipp Manlapaz; and Capt.Joey Sarroza.

'Tiyanak' gives Edsa II . . .

(From page A1)

militant groups led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan will have touches of humor.

An effigy created by the visual arts group Ugat Lahi portrays Ms Macapagal as a *"tiyanak"* or a child monster in Filipino lore, perched on a 10-foot high chair.

"It symbolizes the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's betrayal of Edsa in only a year. So young a regime and yet so corrupt, fascist, anti-poor and pro-US," Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño explained.

Rotten tomatoes will be thrown at the President's effigy "to express national disgust, frustration and opposition at her government."

The march and rally today will be part of the nationally coordinated protests that will end the four-day Edsa II commemoration. Its highlight will be a reenactment of the historic march from the Edsa Shrine to the Chino Roces Bridge in Mendiola, the final leg of the four-day revolt that toppled the Estrada presidency.

Around 5,000 people are expected to join the march. Though dismayed by the Macapagal governance, leaders of different organizations under the Estrada Resign Movement said Edsa II should still be celebrated as it was the victory of the people against the corrupt Estrada administration.

Schedule

Casiño said the march will start at 11 a.m. from the Nagtahan flyover, with the marchers splitting into two groups, which is how they did it in the final day of the Estrada presidency last year.

One group will take the Forbes-España-Morayta-Recto-Mendiola route while another will take the shorter route to Mendiola through Legarda.

Prominent Bayan leaders like Casiño, chair Rafael Mariano and Carol Araullo with the *"tiyanak"* effigy will lead the Legarda-Mendiola contingent.

"We hope this time, Macapagal-Arroyo will not order the PNP to stop our march, just like what she did last year when the people wanted to chase Erap out of Malacañang," Casiño said.

Ms Macapagal, along with some church leaders, dissuaded the militants of the Estrada Resign Movement (ERM) from pushing through with their march to Malacañang.

About 50,000 protesters, however, led by now Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran and other leaders of ERM went on with the historic march in the early morning of Jan. 20, 2001.

The threatening throngs forced Estrada to leave Malacañang shortly after noon.

But other militant groups refuse to observe Edsa II as it was "a fake," according to labor groups belonging to a faction of the National Federation of Labor Unions and the multisectoral group Alab Katipunan. They claim that Edsa II was manipulated and controlled by the elite.

"Edsa Dos smacks of pure hypocrisy because there have been no meaningful and gainful reforms instituted by the one-year-old administration," said Alab Katipunan spokesperson Gina dela Cruz.

She said the poor did not benefit from Edsa II and that "its sole purpose was to replace an ill-reputed rival faction of the elite and rule over the people in further betrayal of their aspirations for change."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Yanks vs Abu? Filipinos say no, says survey

(From page A1)

consistent not only with the Constitution but also with the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT).

Still, Rasti Dalizo of the anti-war coalition Peace Camp warned yesterday: "Our worst nightmare is at hand. After leveling Afghanistan to rubble, the US government now trains its guns and bombs on the Philippines."

Citing US Sen. Sam Brownback's recent statement that the Philippines would be the next Afghanistan, Dalizo added: "If this is not a classic case of invasion, I don't know what is."

But in an ambush interview in Cebu City, President Macapagal-Arroyo told reporters that the war exercise in Basilan was part of the Philippines' commitment to the United Nations' call for all countries to join the global war against terrorism.

She reiterated that the exercise between American and Filipino troops was a regular activity under the MDT and VFA.

She recalled that when she spoke with US President George W. Bush in Shanghai last year, he offered to order American troops to take an active part in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf.

"I said no (to Bush's offer) because our soldiers should do the fighting themselves," she said.

Stupid

Sen. John Osmeña said the activist groups' demand for a pullout of the US forces was "stupid."

"The nationalists are carrying their cause to the extreme," he said. "These are friendly forces. And they are not basing either."

But like the other senators, Osmeña said the Senate should be informed of the legal parameters of the agreement between the two countries.

"The primacy of the President on foreign relations is well recognized, but as in the United States, the (Philippine) Senate is the chamber vested with oversight powers on foreign policy," he pointed out.

Osmeña supported the call of other senators seeking an executive briefing on the matter.

He also dismissed moves by the House to look into the deployment of US forces in Basilan, saying "it is none of their business."

Tight-lipped

At the Clark Special Economic Zone, Maj. Kevin Colyer, US joint mission commander of the month-long joint exercise "Balance Piston," cited security and refused to whether he had members of the elite US Navy Seals (Sea, Air and Land Services) or Marines in his contingent.

The US soldiers started arriving at Clark on Jan. 11 and have been deployed to their training sites.

The last unreported US Navy Seals training in the Philippines was between May 29 and June 13 two years ago in Subic, according to a Philippine Navy letter a copy of which had been obtained by the INQUIRER. The Presidential Commission on the VFA later confirmed the exercise.

Colyer said about 400 soldiers from the US Army, Air Force and Navy would be training with the Philippine Marines.

The usual number of US troops participating in the small-scale exercise is 50-150—close to the size of the American contingent joining the large-scale Kalayaan-Aguila in Mindanao.

"They decided to do the training with all the branches of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines)," Colyer said in explaining the increase in the number of US participants.

Also, he said, more air maintenance men were involved this time.

"We have nothing to hide. It is simply for the protection of our people," he said.

Colyer also said Balance Piston was planned 18 months ago and had nothing to do with Kalayaan-Aguila, contrary to wire reports.

PAINTING the wall of the Palace gate 7, members of the Youth for Nationalism and Democracy show their protest against the presence of US troops in Basilan saying they're not here for war games but for outright intervention in the country's peace and order problem. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Covert

Prof. Roland Simbulan of the University of the Philippines said the war exercise might not be the reason US troops were being sent to Mindanao.

He pointed out that US Special Forces had the capability to mount covert operations.

"These were the forces sent to Afghanistan as ground troops (after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the US) and now possibly here in the hinterlands of Basilan and Zamboanga," said Simbulan, who has authored books on the US military bases in the Philippines.

He said the objective of US Special Forces, including the Green Berets, was to "neutralize and defeat an enemy and its sources of support."

"They use complex covert operations, which include agent networks, creation of vigilante-type of units from local inhabitants, deception, psychological warfare, maritime activities and cross-border clandestine reconnaissance operations," Simbulan added, citing research done on the elite units.

He also said the US Rangers, Green Berets and the covert Delta Force, Navy Seals, Special Boat Units and Air Force Special Operations and Internal Defense Squadrons were first used in the Vietnam War to defeat Third World guerrilla wars and were consolidated in 1987.

He said they were now operating globally in exercises known as Joint Combined Exchange Training, which he described as an indispensable part of US post-Cold War policy.

One-woman rule

Former Sen. Francisco Tatad said Ms Macapagal had turned the government into a "one-woman rule" supposedly by disregarding Philippine sovereignty in exchange for US support in her alleged plan to hold on to power beyond 2004.

Speaking at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo Hotel, Tatad urged Ms Macapagal to step down before the US government turned the Philippines into another Afghanistan.

Insisting that the arrival of US troops had no basis in the Constitution, MDT, or VFA, Tatad urged the President to "come clean instead of telling the nation cheap and childish lies."

"CNN may not mind it when she says the US troops are here to train Filipino soldiers on anti-terrorist warfare. But we mind it very much when we are treated like morons and lied to in this manner," he said.

At the same forum, Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales said that if the President were really serious about fighting terrorism, she should have focused her efforts on uplifting the socio-economic status of the people of Mindanao.

"You cannot fight terrorism by killing all those terrorists. The root of the problem is socio-economic, and that should be addressed," Rosales said, adding:

"Malacañang and the military are playing dangerous games on the Filipino."

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said Mindanao legislators in the House and the Senate were alarmed by the arrival of the US troops and would meet on Thursday to discuss the issue.

But Pimentel said he was "not yet ready" to condemn the President on the issue.

"I would like to give her the opportunity to explain first," he said. *With reports from Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Debra Jane Magallon and Malou Guanzon-Apalisok, PDI Visayas Bureau; Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, contributor*

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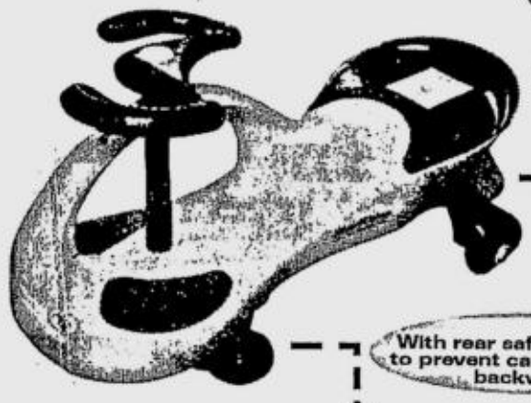

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Tyson wife wants divorce

ROCKVILLE, Maryland—Mike Tyson's second wife has filed for divorce, accusing the former heavyweight boxing champion of adultery. Monica Tyson seeks an unspecified "reasonable sum," according to divorce papers filed Thursday. *AP*

Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▩ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

PBA TRAINING TEAM

Selecta is RP quintet's name

BY ROY LUARCA

ONE of the two national training pool teams for the Asian Games will carry the brand name Selecta on the players' uniforms when the PBA Commissioner's Cup starts on Feb. 10.

This came about after RFM Corp., maker of Selecta dairy products, and PBA honchos had agreed to the sponsorship agreement. The contract signing will take place tomorrow at the Edsa Shangri-La.

The sponsorship could cost RFM P14 million.

"All for the love of the game," said Elmer Yanga, RFM senior vice president for corporate relations.

Yanga, RFM senior vice president for corporate releations, told the INQUIRER the company wants to maintain its ties with basketball after its Cosmos franchise (the Pop Cola owner), was bought last year by San Miguel Corp.

YANGA

CONCEPCION

"Our CEO and president (Jose Concepcion III) wants so show his love for basketball and support for the national team," said Yanga, who acted as team manager of Pop Cola during the team's entire 11-year PBA stint beginning in 1990.

"Mr. Concepcion is really for a strong representation by the Philippines in international competitions," said Yanga. "We'll continue supporting the national team for as long as the PBA sees it fit."

Under the contract, Selecta will also be used by the Busan Asian Games-bound national team in the second conference.

Yanga refused to divulge the amount involved but a PBA insider said RFM would most likely cough up around P14 million for the two conferences.

Yanga also confirmed that RFM Corp. had exploratory talks with both the Philippine Basketball League and the Metropolitan Basketball Association for a possible stint in either one of the two leagues.

But further talks had been shelved in favor of the RP Team-Selecta deal.

Capriati, Rios advance

MELBOURNE, Australia—Defending champion Jennifer Capriati escaped the Australian Open's early exodus of top players, rebounding for a 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Eleni Daniilidou to reach the fourth round.

Playing with both hips bandaged, the usually aggressive Capriati found herself on the defensive in losing the second set Saturday.

When she lost her opening service game of the third, she appeared in danger of becoming the latest victim of a rash of injuries and upsets that had taken the five top-seeded men out of the year's first Grand Slam event before the third round.

But errors by the 81st-ranked Daniilidou opened the way, and Capriati found her winning shots again, taking the last six games.

In men's matches, Marcelo Rios flustered Alberto Martin with a behind-the-back service return, a crucial underhand volley and steady play.

Rios kept Martin on the run in a 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (3) victory. *AP*

Tinio defeats Santiago

LA SALLE-Zobel's Chase Tinio defeated Edison Santiago, 6-4, 6-2, yesterday to advance in the boys' 18-under quarterfinals in the Philta Classic 1 Age-Group Tennis Cahmpionships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Irwin de Guzman, Jandrick de Castro and Lawrence Magaway of La Salle-Greenhills also won their matches.

De Guzman needed an extra set to beat Kyle Dandan of Colegio de San Agustin, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; De Castro breezed past Dino Ferrari, 6-3, 6-2; and Magaway blasted William Murrell of Faith Academy, 6-0, 6-0.

ICTSI-La Salle stuns Shark

Archers grab twice-to-beat incentive; Ana Freezers prevail as Valenzona gets thrown out

GAMES TUESDAY (Makati)
3:30 p.m.—Ana vs Shark
5:30 p.m.—Blu vs Kutitap

BY DENNIS U. EROA

ICTSI-La Salle lived up to its reputation as a giant-killer yesterday, scoring a masterful 60-54 victory over defending champion Shark Energy Drink in their playoff for a semifinal slot in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Playmaker Mike Cortez thrilled the crowd with his variety of moves and ice-cold demeanor as he presided over the Green Archers' demolition job in the fourth quarter.

He got ample support from Willy Wilson, Alvin Castro and James Yap in blunting Shark's last-ditch attack as ICTSI-La Salle clinched the coveted second semifinal slot.

The victory propelled ICTSI to a twice-to-beat incentive in the next round, needing only one more win to enter the title playoffs. That is a luxury earned earlier by Welcoat Paints.

Shark, for it to keep its title hopes alive, must now hurdle its next three games—one against Ana Freezers on Tuesday and two against ICTSI-La Salle to enter the best-of-seven finals.

Ana Freezers, powered by Ronald Tubid's 31 points, demolished Montaña Jewels, 86-70, to complete the quarterfinals cast.

Unleashing their patented run-and-gun offensive, the Freezer Kings proved too much for the Jewels, whose downfall started when coach Turing Valenzona incurred two technical fouls for cursing the referees. He was thrown out of the ballgame early in the fourth quarter.

While Ana mentor Rudy Mendoza marshalled his forces effectively, the absence of Valenzona was a big blow to the Jewels, who lost their will to fight with still seven minutes left and Ana ahead, 62-50.

Shark and ICTSI engaged in a battle of attrition right from the opening buzzer. As the sizeable crowd watched in joy, both teams finished tied after three quarters, 40-40.

Then the Archers sprang a surprise.

Employing a full-court, trapping defense, ICTSI-La Salle derailed Shark's offense time and again until the defending champion completely lost its zest for bite.

Cortez's two consecutive steals, including one over the ineffective but PBA-bound Chester Tolomia in the crucial fourth quarter, led to a 13-0 La Salle run.

Stunned and stung, Shark never recovered its poise from there.

SCORES:

ANA 86—Tubid 31, Mendoza D 20, Artadi 13, Pascual 10, Capus 8, Mendoza 2, De Guzman 2, Vilar 0, Chavez 0.

MONTAÑA 70—David 17, Gottenbos 15, Zamora 11, Alfad 6, Macapagal 6, Mesina 4, Lao 4, Dimaunahan 4, Misola 3, Latoreno 0.

Quarters:21-12,35-36,57-44,86-70

ICTSI-LA SALLE 60—Cortez 16, Yap 11, Castro 11, Wilson 10, Omolon 4, Sta. Maria 4, Ramos 2, Franco 2, Cuan 0, Daep 0, Uy 0.

SHARK 54—Junio 17, Cole 10, Basilides 9, Ybanez 6, Sotto 5, Tolomia 4, Malabanan 2, Rodriguez 1, Ortega 0, Balares 0, Castro 0.

Quarters: 14-12, 30-25, 40-40, 60-54

GUNNER Alvin Castro of ICTSI-La Salle protects the ball as playmaker Jun Balares of Shark Energy Drink falls in the PBL Challenge Cup last night. Looking on is forward Clarence Cole (right). The Archers won, 60-54, at the Makati Coliseum. ROMY HOMILLADA

Assisi routs Aguinaldo

A DEPLETED St. Francis of Assisi College squad pinned its hopes on Yancy de Ocampo's return as the Doves opened the National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) men's basketball quarterfinals with a 92-63 rout of Emilio Aguinaldo College yesterday at the Lyceum gym.

Pasig River Marathon Feb. 24

PATTERNED after the famous New York, Boston, and Berlin marathons and launched to save a dying waterway, the Pasig River Heritage Marathon will blast off on Feb. 24. It will start in Intramuros and end in Fort Bonifacio in Makati.

Clean and Green Foundation Inc., which organizes the annual event, promised to improve on this year's staging after suffering a big organizational setback in its maiden year last year which was declared a failure.

"We are making sure everything will turn out right this time because we have learned a lot from what happened last year," said Clean and Green Foundation director Imelda Sarmiento. "We are also expecting a bigger number of participants this year."

The race will follow a point-to-point route beginning at the Manila Cathedral, passing through 11 landmark bridges spanning the Pasig River and crossing streets of Manila, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Makati and Taguig.

Starting at 4 a.m., the race will end at the new Global City in Fort Bonifacio to complete the theme of "Old World to the New," according to the organizers.

Last year, the organizers declared a race failure after all the runners got lost on their way to the finish line.

Project director Ramon Jacinto-Socco said the event also has a 5K fun run for 18 years old and below.

For more details, call 528-0504 and 528-0976.

SPORTSWATCH

Slasher Cup tomorrow

THE 2002 World Slasher Cup unwraps tomorrow with confirmed bookings by the world's biggest names in cockfighting. Preparations for the big event have been completed by the organizing National Cockers Association, highlighted by yesterday's luncheon meeting with media and the traditional pitting of the cocks at the Foodome of the Araneta Center. The return defending champion Roger Roberts from Atlanta and the comebacking Ray Alexander of Alabama at the head of a big American delegation have created quite a big stir among Filipino cockfighting aficionados.

Derby for ASK

CASINO Filipino-Parañaque, in cooperation with IMP Group, will present a five-cock derby dubbed "Sabong sa Casino" on Jan. 21 and Jan. 23 with a guaranteed cash prize of P1 million. The derby's beneficiary is the Alay sa Kinabukasan sa Kapwa Pilipino Foundation (ASK). The derby is the first at CF-Parañaque. Organizers led by Isagani M. Pagkalinawan and Rudy de Guzman had finalized the details for the two-day event with CF-Parañaque senior branch manager Dario V. Cordero and his staff. Entry fee is P11,000, while minimum bet is P7,700. Betting shall be on cash-to-cash basis only, and no personal checks will be honored during the derby. Tickets are priced at P400 each for VIP seats, and P300 each for general admission. Derby starts at 5 p.m. Call 837-3837, 838-5671 and 854-0618 for other details.

4-Cocker at Roligon

THE CYBERFRIENDS Global 4-Cock Derby will be held at Roligon Mega Cockpit on Jan. 26. World-famous Texan Bobby Jones will bring in four trios of prized game birds from his farm and other multi-awarded US rooster-raisers which will be auctioned to local breeders during the derby. Also coming with Jones to grace the event are United Gamefowl Breeders of America president Chuck Berry, Harry KC of Alabama, Bryan Brightol of California and Johnny Philips of Oklahoma. Reigning Bayou Club's Cocker of the Year Chip Baker of Louisiana will test his Heart Surgeon line for the first time here under Black Hearts entry. Meanwhile Princess Naldo (Lady Pepper), who is spearheading the derby, said the three choice stags and lots of valuable items would be raffled off to the paying patrons during the derby.

Xavier MMBL finalist

XAVIER School's multi-titled Stallions cut the towering Letran Squires down to size with their sped and fiery offensive yesterday to win, 66-57, and make the MMBL (Metro Manila Basketball League) Division I finals at the Brent School gym in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Chris Tiu made shambles of Letran's defense in the final half to pour in 30 points, Sammy Young added 19 and shifty Tyrone Tang chipped in 10 despite sitting it out for more than one quarter due to cramps to spark the Stallions' breakaway from a 25-25 halftime deadlock. Vastly improved J.C Yu and Leonard Lee also shone for Coach Mon Amador's Stallions, who will meet the winner of the Adamson University-La Salle Greenhills game in the finals on Sunday, Jan. 27.

NBA Results

Detroit 96, Indiana 93; Toronto 89, New Jersey 77; Houston 104, Boston 101; Milwaukee 115, Orlando 110; Denver 96, Seattle 90; Phoenix 103, Minnesota 100, OT; Sacramento 121, Golden State 97; LA Clippers 109, Cleveland 103. *AP*

Corporate Cup: Focus on John Hay amenities

LOCAL and foreign entries will get to savor the world-class amenities of Camp John Hay when the 14th Corporate Cup will be played Feb. 12-14 in Baguio City.

John Hay's Manor Hotel will house the participants and dining will be provided by Le Souffle.

Foreign teams playing in the regular division are from San Francisco, Texas, Houston and Dallas while playing in the senior side are Japan, Indonesia and Hawaii.

Only the first 180 players to sign up for the event backed by the College Assurance Plan, Wilson, Premier Wines, Nestle and San Miguel Beer will be accepted on a first come-first serve basis, owing to the expected surge in registration.

Format is five-to-play, four-to-count. Group I is for teams with average handicap of 2.5-9.99, Group II 10-13.99, Group III 14-18.99, Group IV 19 and the senior division for players 55 and above.

Interested teams may call 811-12-30 or 811-1222 through Mary Ann for other details.

Kite shoots course-record

KAUPULEHU-KONA, Hawaii—Tom Kite had two eagles in a course-record 9-under-par 63 to take a three-stroke lead in the Senior PGA Tour's season-opening MasterCard Championship. Kite, who eagled Nos. 4 and 7 and added five birdies in the bogey-free round Friday, hit 17 of 18 greens in regulation on the Hualalai Golf Club course. "When you're hitting that many greens, you're going to shoot a reasonably good score," he said. "I've been working hard on my putting, and I putted very well. I made some real nice putts." Kite said the record-setting round was surprising, considering the shifting wind and that he didn't touch a club for nearly a month during the off-season.

"It's nice to come back refreshed, enthusiastic and excited about playing golf, but there's some payback," he said. "The golf swing is not where you want it to be, and the inconsistency is there. I guess that's probably why the round was so surprising. *AP*

African 'Hope' co-leader

LA QUINTA, California—South African Deane Pappas produced a sizzling back nine to join Americans Kirk Triplett and Duffy Waldorf in a share of the third round lead at the $4 million Bob Hope Classic on Friday.

Pappas, 34, a former room-mate of John Daly at the University of Arkansas, birdied six of the final nine holes at Bermuda Dunes to finish with a nine-under-par round of 63 and a 19-under-par total of 197.

The trio were one stroke clear of overnight leader John Senden (69) of Australia and Americans Brandel Chamblee (68), Cameron Beckman (64) and Jerry Kelly (65).

Jay Haas was alone in eighth place on 199, one shot ahead of David Berganio, Chris DiMarco, Justin Leonard and Craig Stadler.

Triplett, 39, with only one win on tour—at the 2000 Nissan Open—posted a bogey-free 64 with eight birdies.

Waldorf, 39, who is seeking his fifth victory on the circuit, had five birdies on the back nine on the way to his 64. *AP*

Heidi's ecstasy

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HEIDI Chua shot a final-day 79 at Wack Wack West on Friday in the 40th Philippine Ladies Open. By any stretch of imagination, no way that can be considered a yardstick of excellence.

That 79 wasn't a blast—blast to make way for a monument to greatness, that is.

That 79 was a bash—bash to dignify mediocrity, that is.

That 79 was 9-over-par. On any given day, that cannot win a tournament—let alone a major. Like the Ladies Open, which is supposed to draw the nation's top female players; the last one even attracted entries from our Asian neighbors.

Yet, that 79 gave Heidi Chua the nation's most coveted ladies golf plum. And, as if to ennoble imperfection, Heidi capped her victory with a two-putt bogey on the last hole to win by one.

If there's one consolation to it, Heidi winning by one could speak volumes of drama; the Open's last day had an abundance of it.

Aileen Rose Yao, the erstwhile leader, rode home on one disaster hole after another. She double bogeyed 15 to lose a 2-shot lead. She double-bogeyed 17th after a 3-putt from 8 feet. With Aileen's 82, she lost the crown she won against Heidi's 79.

The defeat had parallels to Aileen's victory last year.

Before winning it this year, Heidi was 5 strokes down with 8 holes left to play,

Before winning it last year, Aileen was 4 strokes down the stretch. She sank into the shoulders of her father, Albert, jubilating unabashedly after holing out. On Friday, she sobbed into the shoulders of Albert right after stepping out of the 18th green, tears streaming down her cheeks as quickly as when she lost those 4 strokes on 15 and 17.

Ria Quiazon, the *balikbayan* beauty from San Francisco, had a part in the three-act drama.

Down by 4 at the start of the day, she was having a go of it until 3 bogeys hit her on the last 3 holes. Of the three major performers, Ria had the best round: a 78. But what did Ria in was when she missed a 4-footer on 18 that could have pushed her into a title playoff with Heidi.

Golf, how many times has it been said, is a game of mistakes. The fewer mistakes you make, the better are your chances of winning. In short, mistakes in golf do not necessarily uglify your game. In golf, the score can be ugly at times but if the result is beautiful, that's still enough reason to rejoice. Heidi Chua had a result so beautiful despite a terror-laden round, despite an ugly score, so why not allow her to wallow in ecstasy?

Listen to Sir Winston Churchill: "Victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival."

Victory, Heidi Chua must have also learned on Friday the 18th, is also the art of survival.

'SORRY DAD'
Aileen Rose Yao (left) cries unabashedly on the shoulders of her father, Albert, after losing her crown in the 40th Philippine Ladies Open to Heidi Chua at Wack Wack West on Friday. Yao lost it by one, highlighted by a three-putt bogey on 17 from 8 feet for a double-bogey and a final-day 82. ROMY HOMILLADA

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Sun God Stakes kicks off buildup for Triple Crown

THE BUILDUP for the 2002 Triple Crown series starts today when six gallopers compete in the P400,000.00 Philracom Sun God Stakes, the year's first major racing event, at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

To be disputed over 1,500 meters, the Sun God Stakes kicks off the Philracom's lucrative stakes program for the 2002 racing season. It will be coupled with the running of the P250,000 Hopeful Stakes.

"The staging of the Sun God Stakes signals the unveiling of this year's stakes program, a program that is intended to enhance the promotion of the sport, create new players and patrons and sustain the high level of racing competition," said Philracom chair Andrew A. Sanchez.

The Sun God Stakes carries a guaranteed P240,000 winner's purse.

Art of Rose and coupled entry Conquer D'Sun are the slight pre-race favorites. Art of Rose finished second to Golden Ballet in last month's Philracom Juvenile Championship at the Santa Ana Park.

Expected to crowd them are Bidang Bida, a fighting runner-up to River Bee in last year's Marho Breeders' Cup Juvenile Colts Championship.

Others in the hunt for the top spot include recent Sweepstakes winner Bakasan, noted speedball Security Risk and unpredictable Men of Honor.

Meanwhile, four up-and-coming gallopers are set to square off in the companion Philracom Hopeful Stakes, also set over a distance of 1,500 meters.

Recent winner Senor Raggaas looms as the favorite to bag the P150,000 top prize.

Challenging him are Rosewood, Tigra and Action Mark.

The Sun God Stakes is named after former racing great Sun God, Don Pedro Cojuangco's famed chestnut galloper who lorded over the local tracks during the early 70's and emerged as the first winner of the prestigious Presidential Gold Cup in 1973.

Un-Jockey of the Year rides

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

WHY has Pat Dilema suddenly became fall-prone?

This was the question of thousands of *kareristas* regarding how the 2001 Jockey of the Year fared with two outstanding favorites recently.

Dilema was first thrown off Guguy's Legacy on Jan. 10, a day before he was bestowed the prestigious PSA accolade.

And then only last Thursday, he was unseated aboard Free Time.

In both instances, millions of pesos placed on his mounts went down the drain. "*Walang kalaban laban*," in the words of racing fans.

Those who made Guguy's Legacy and Free Time their "paninggel" in the Pick-6 and Winner-Take-All events could only shake their heads in disbelief.

The *bayang kareristas* said racing officials must order Dilema to explain what really happened on those un-Jockey of the Year rides.

***

Congratulations to those who hit the WTA in that historic Wednesday night (Jan. 16) meeting at San Lazaro.

The unlucky ones (include me and my Silip Boy) have one common woe—they overlooked High Pocket, the only longshot who won that night.

Joey Nolasco says "there's always a next time" to the non-winners.

By the way, an all-time weekday record sales of P34,590,548 was posted that night during which *kareristas* vied for a whopping WTA pot of P16,493,266.

The Manila Jockey Club management deserves to be lauded!

***

Don't miss today's much-awaited NBA game pitting the Washington Wizards against the Chicago Bulls.

His Airness Michael Jordan will return to the United Center in Chicago for the first time in almost four years, this time as a member of the Wizards.

Majority of *kareristas* who are also avid NBA followers, have all the time in the world to watch this encounter on NBN-4 starting at 9:10 p.m.

Also to be shown is the New York-Philadelphia tussle at 10 a.m. on Skycable-24 or Homecable-17.

Will MJ play with guns ablaze against his former team? Let's find this out tonight!

PERTH IS HOST
Australia fielding strong JW squad

WITH some of the world's best shotmakers competing, Australia is putting up a roster of players teeming with talent to vie for top honors in Asia's premier golf championship when the Johnnie Walker Classic is played Jan. 24-27 at the Lake Karrinyup Country Club in Perth, Australia.

Jarrod Moseley, Nick O'Hern, Brett Rumford, Wayne Smith and Stephen Leaney spearhead the strong squad from the host country in the $1.3 million event which has lured US Open champion Retief Goosen and former JW Classic winners Ernie Els, Nick Faldo and Michael Campbell.

Others in the fold are American Notah Begay, Scot Colin Montgomerie, Thomas Bjorn, Lee Westwood and Sergio Garcia, the boyish-looking Spaniard who is coming off a rousing start in the new season by winning the Mercedes Championship.

The top players from the European, Australasian and Asian PGA Tours are also seeing action in the event which has assembled the strongest cast ever in the four-day championship which offers the top purse of $199,000.

Although the depth of the foreign field looks formidable, the Aussie bets aren't lacking or short in talent.

There is Moseley, the 29-year-old shotmaker who beat Els and Bernhard Langer in a pressure-packed finish to win the Heineken Classic at The Vines. He went on to top the 1998-99 Australasian Tour Order of Merit and become the first Qualifying School graduate to do so in his rookie year.

O'Hern is one of the most consistent players on the Australasian Tour and many feel the 30-year-old southpaw is due for a victory. Last season, he chalked up five top 10 finishes on the Tour, including a share of eight at the Johnnie Walker Classic in Bangkok.

Marho holds Founders' racefest Jan. 25-27

PUYAT

AFTER staging the record-breaking Philippine Breeders' Cup last year, the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners Inc. holds another blockbuster racing festival— the inaugural Marho Founders' Cup Racing Festival—at the Santa Ana Park.

The racefest, slated Jan. 25 to 27, will be held in conjunction with Marho's 28th founding anniversary.

"Marho is honored to pay tribute to the distinguished and honorable horsemen who founded the country's foremost fraternity of race horse owners," said Marho president Aristeo "Putch" Puyat.

Among the Marho's original founders in 1974 include Ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., Don Antonio Araneta, Gov. Isidro Rodriguez, Asterio Favis, Elias Coscoluela, Angel Castaño, Justice Federico Moreno, Emilio Espinosa Sr., Mayor Macario Asistio Sr., Jose "Pinggoy" Revilla, Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Don Pedro Cojuangco, Constante Rubio, Conrado Trinidad and Samuel "Sammy" Sharuff.

In addition to the 15 Marho Founders' Cup races, the association will also pay tribute to some of the known pillars of the local horse racing industry.

Among those to be honored are Mayor Ramon Bagatsing, Philippine Jockeys' Academy Director George Stribling, as well as, the late Gregorio "Boy" Reyes, Don Augusto Santos and John Felix.

Highlight of the meet is the running of the Chairman Eduardo Cojuangco Cup honoring Marho's founding chair and president on Jan. 27. The race has a guaranteed winner's purse of P300,000.

Other top money events include the Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing Cup carrying a P200,000 winner's guarantee, while all of the featured Marho Founders' Cup races will be carrying no less than P175,000.00 in guaranteed prize to the winner.

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AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

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Race 2—1. Grand Prize 2. Prince of Africa 3. Legitimo
Race 3—1. Senor Raggaas 2. Rosewood
Race 4—1. Happy Return 2. Jhelen 3. Shuttle's Magic 4. Come in Glory 5. Chichana 6. Juggler
Race 5—1. Kathy Rose 2. Silver Print 3. Walang Hanggan/Imperial Act 4. Zip On
Race 6—1. Bidang Bida 2. Security Risk 3. Art of Rose/Conquer D Sun
Race 7—1. Party Princess 2. Silent Wind 3. Turbo Carera 4. Cardinal Rule
Race 8—1. Runaway Bride 2. Rapid Strike 3. Dressed to Impress 4. Inner Wheeler
Race 9—1. Guts Pleaser 2. Boy from Brazil/Ticket to Fame 3. Lady Victoria 4. Bull Strike 5. Spoiler
Race 10—1. Laguna Gold 2. Super Shuttle 3. Daseldurf 4. River Bee 5. Real Charm 6. The Magician
Race 11—1. Southern Glory 2. Opening Prospect 3. Jamie's Princess 4. Lady Queen
Race 12—1. Sweep Away 2. Golden Dave 3. Kitty Bang Bang 4. Bulwak
Race 13—1. Kiss Me Quick 2. May's Magic 3. Arresbee 4. Tanging Ikaw 5. Winning Heart 6. Meal Ticket

SPORTS ON TV
COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Australian Open at 8 a.m. on Sky Cable 29 and Home Cable 17

Hopman Cup 2002 Finals at 5:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: AFC Divisional Playoffs – Oakland Raiders vs New England Patriots at 9a m., Baltimore Ravens vs Pittsburgh Steelers tomorrow at 1:30 a.m., NFC Divisional Playoffs – Green Bay Packers vs St. Louis Rams tomorrow at 5 a.m. on Studio 23

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Speedfest unfolds today

THE MP Turbo Speedfest San Pablo Fiesta Motocross, supported by national motocross champion team Shell Advance, roars off today in San Pablo City, Laguna.

The invitational race will mark the first time that top teams in the sport like Shell-Yamaha led by Jovie Saulog and brothers Ernie and Jong Leongson and Caltex Team of Glen Aguilar, Bebeth dela Cruz and Johnny Garcia will showcase their skills.

More than 100 participants are expected to come from Batangas, Quezon, Cavite, Manila and San Pablo in the race sponsored by MP Turbo Race and Rally Shop, BLTBCO, Fil-Estate, Speed TV and the city government of San Pablo headed by Mayor Florante "Boy" Aquino.

Fil Estate created the one-hectare track in its project called Villa Reverina in Barangay San Rafael, San Pablo City along the national highway.

"We are very happy to stage the initial event of the Speedfest 2002 series," said MP Turbo president Mike Potenciano.

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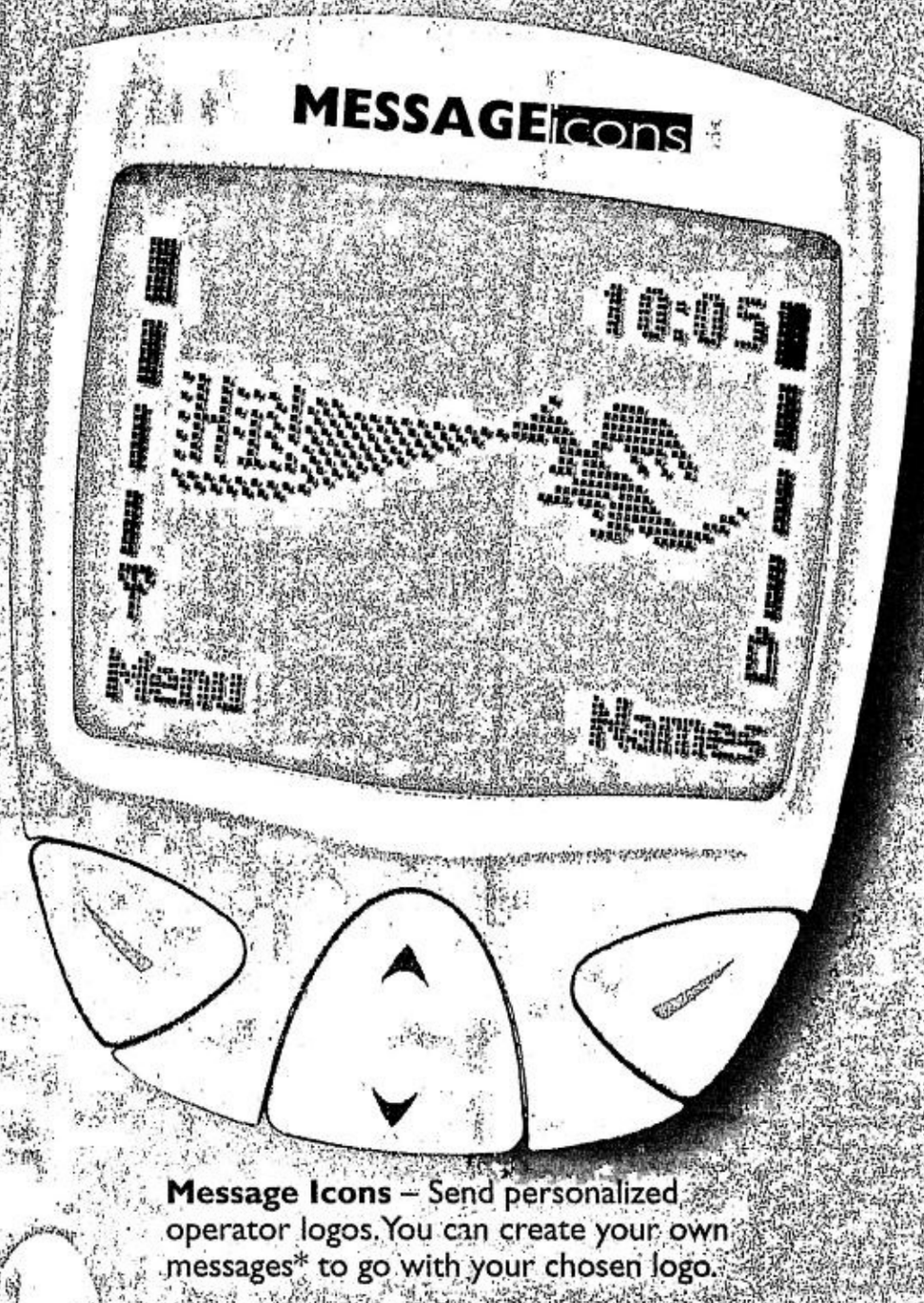

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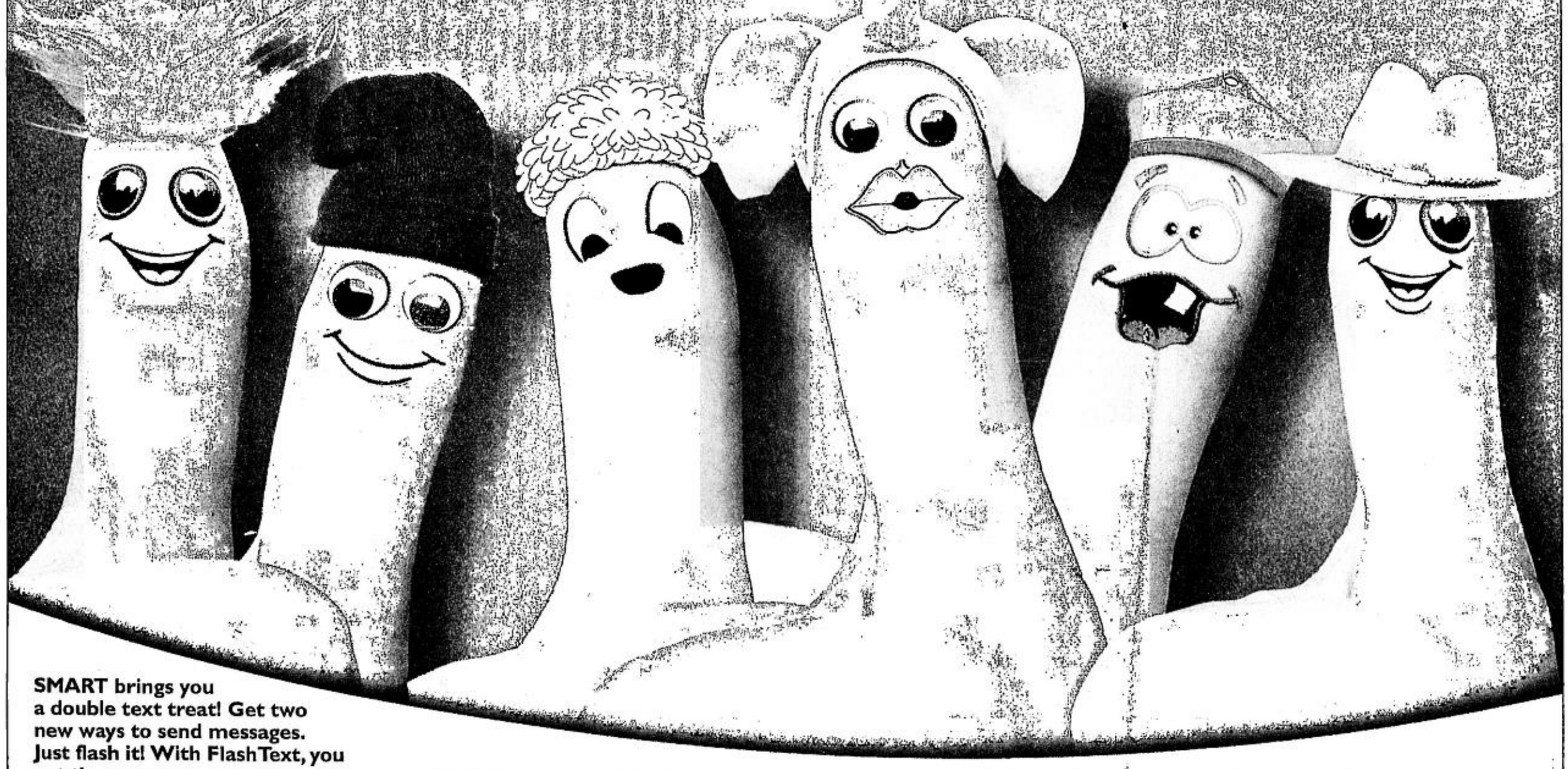

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

- NGO adopts QC School A22
- Trader kidnapped in QC A22

Give 2.5M poor families food daily, says solon

"THEY have to eat first before they can do anything."

With those words, a first-time congressman from Caloocan City has made a very ambitious proposal — that the government help the "absolute poor" by giving them food every day for a certain period of time.

Rep. Edgard Erice, of Caloocan's 2nd district, said the "absolute poor" number a little more than 2.5 million families, according to the estimate by the National Economic Development Authority.

"These are the families who have a hard time eating two to three decent meals a day," Erice said in a privilege speech he delivered last week. "Imagine what hunger does to the physical and mental health of these people, especially the children."

He said giving these people food "would give them the opportunity to concentrate on other matters."

In his proposed food distribution program, which is similar to the American welfare system, "absolute poor" households will be given food coupons that they can use to buy food at authorized retail food stores.

To qualify for the food program, a household's income must fall below the poverty level as of the year 2000 as determined by Neda.

The value of the food assistance should be equivalent to 50 percent of the household's income.

"If we can spend hundreds of billions of pesos for defense and infrastructure, why can we not spend some billions annually to feed our people," Erice said.

He noted that in 2000 alone, the

GIVE 2.5M/ A22

STO. NIÑO 2002

Five hundred images of the Sto. Niño are expected to participate in the Sto. Niño Fiesta 2002 from Jan. 24 to Feb. 3. The images will take part in a grand procession on the last Sunday of January and will be on display at the PNB Banking Hall along Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City. For registration details, image owners and Sto. Niño devotees may call Nolie Hans at 523-5102 or 525-4773, or Ben Farrales, founding chair of the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus, at 525-3421.

Honesty has no price tag, says waiter

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

CASTRO

IF YOU found about half a million pesos in cash and checks and you were sure no one else knew about it that you found it, would you keep the money?

There are those who might say yes, particularly when the found amount is P500,000, which is more than what many Filipinos would ever earn in a lifetime.

Hotel Inter-Continental waiter Fred M. Castro is different.

Castro found a small black pouch that a guest had left at the hotel's Jeepney Bar in the afternoon of Aug. 17, 1999. Castro looked inside the pouch, saw the money and immediately turned it over to the hotel supervisor for safekeeping until the owner could be contacted.

TALES OF THE CITY

The pouch had been left behind by the late Mayor Cesar V. Platon of Tanauan, Batangas, who was a Jeepney Bar regular. It contained $10,000 and P14,120 in cash and cashable checks for P88,456.

Castro's friends and colleagues in the hotel teased him no end about his good deed. They told him they would have taken the money and ran.

Castro said returning the money was the very first thing he thought of when he found the pouch. He said he was not comfortable with keeping money that was not his own, even if it could have solved his financial problems at that time.

No regrets

"I do not feel any regret for having returned the bag even if I was facing a lot of trials at that time and was trying to make ends meet," Castro said. "I was trying to earn enough money for the tuition of my three sons and their other needs.

"I believe I did the right thing," he added.

HONESTY/ A22

Joey Marquez hospitalized in Cebu for chest pain

BY CONNIE E. FERNANDEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

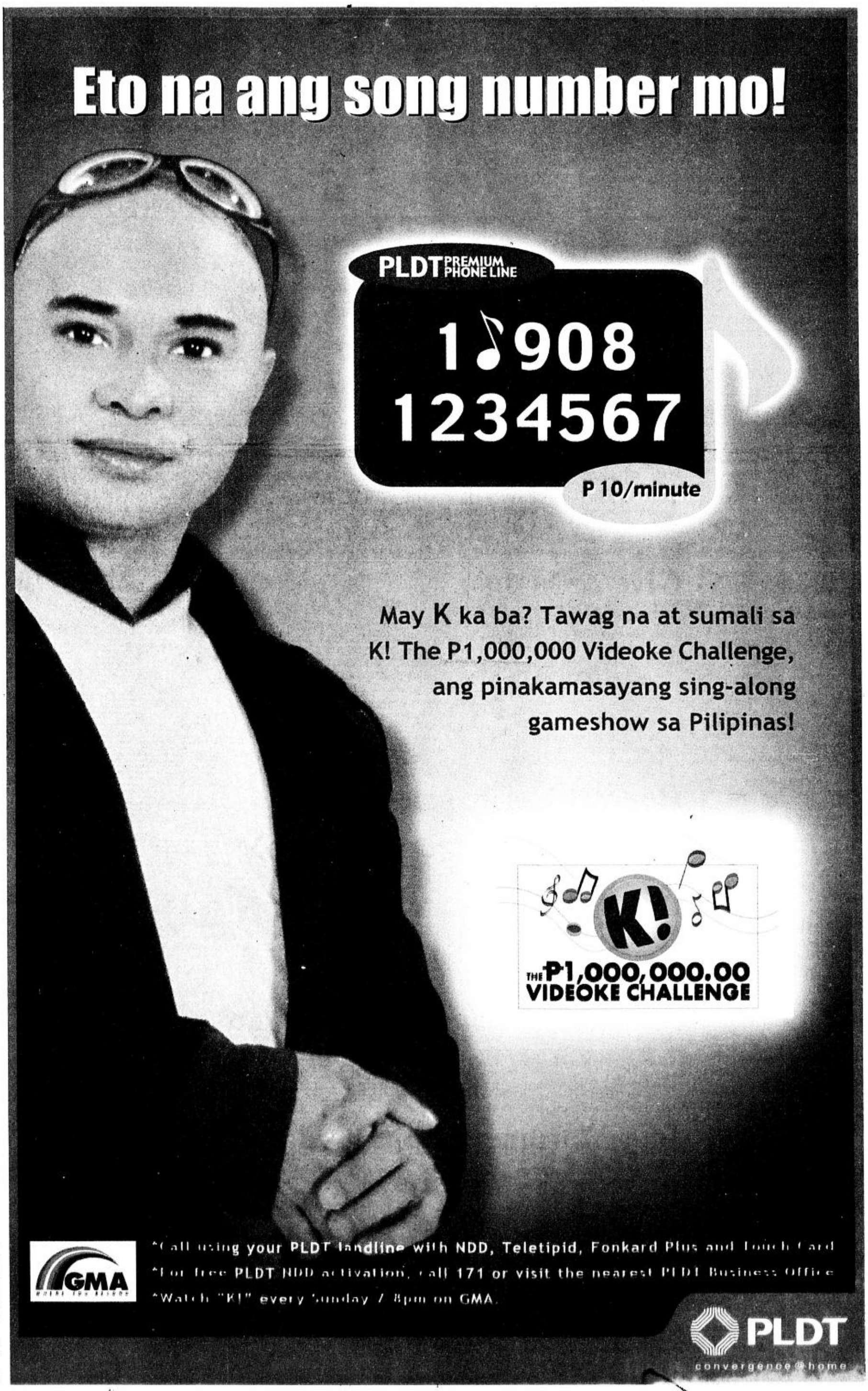
MARQUEZ

CEBU CITY—It's neither a heart attack nor a stroke, although a part of his heart was found to be "not pumping well."

That's what doctors said after Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez on Friday afternoon was rushed to a hospital here after suffering severe chest pain while playing golf at Alta Vista Golf and Country Club in Barangay Pardo in this city.

Ruel Ricafort, the mayor's chief security officer, clarified that Marquez did not suffer a stroke or a heart attack.

JOEY MARQUEZ/ A22



'ESKWELA-TULUNGAN'

NGO adopts QC school

BY SERAFIN O. MALECOSIO JR.
Contributor

THE UNIVERSITY Center Foundation Inc. (UCF), a private non-government organization, has adopted Krus na Ligas Elementary School, a public school in Ouezon City, as its pilot school in the implementation of its health-promoting school project.

The health-promoting school project, a health component of a bigger program called "Eskwela-Tulungan," aims to develop a model school that will actively promote the health and nutrition of pupils, teachers and staff, and contribute to the health of the wider community.

Studies show strong links among health, school performance and educational attainment among elementary school children. Children suffering from poor health cannot take full advantage of every opportunity to learn. Poor health has been one of the major reasons for high dropout and failure rates of the school children (World Conference on Education for All, 1990).

Our public elementary schools are suffering from a big shortage of doctors and other health personnel. The health-promoting school project simply encourages the private sector, NGOs and other concerned individuals and groups to work together to specifically help improve children's health.

"Every child should not be deprived of his or her right to the basic physical requirements for a healthy and a vigorous life," said UCF executive director Irwin Zarraga. "The child's inherent right to life and right to the highest attainable standards of health is framed in our Constitution."

School-based

The program is school-based because it wants to directly help the children who are often the victims of communicable diseases, particularly intestinal parasitism, and malnutrition. The implementation, monitoring, evaluation and sustainability of the control program are more feasible, especially when the control program is integrated in the schools' health activities and curriculum.

Children can be easily treated, monitored, and followed up since they assemble in school. Mothers of school children can be easily organized for classes on health care and nutrition through Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) meetings.

FEEDING time for pupils of the adopted school in their newly renovated canteen.

Schools are a good venue for health-promoting activities, and teachers can act as health educators and can promote disease prevention and control activities. Health education and promotion can be incorporated in the school's curriculum.

The project has directly benefited 120 malnourished pupils of Krus na Ligas Elementary School through the feeding program. The pupils were given free lunch for 120 days in the school canteen. They were dewormed and clinically examined by UCF's volunteer doctors. They were also given multi-vitamins.

After four months of intervention, a marked improvement was observed, based on their height and weight. They also had hygiene classes under UCF's volunteer students, mostly from UP Diliman.

The hygiene classes focused on hand washing, wearing of slippers, regular bathing, trimming of fingernails, proper grooming and table manners.

Motivated

"We are very fortunate to be selected as the pilot school of UCF's health-promoting school project," said school principal Gloria Huera. "The project really addressed the primary needs of the school. Pupils who used to be absent because of poor health were motivated to come to school because of the free lunch. This improved their nutritional status as could be seen from their complexion."

Another project activity was a two-day nutrition seminar for mothers of malnourished children. The seminar was on food groups and their sources, meal planning and marketing, and actual preparation and cooking of nutritious but low-cost meals conducted by a nutritionist.

"For the mothers, the cooking demonstration was the most interesting and enjoyable part of the seminar," said district nutrition coordinator Carmen Aguilar.

At the start of the project implementation, the school canteen was not in the proper condition to be part of a health-promoting school and did not have enough space for feeding beneficiaries. UCF solicited help from donors to renovate and expand the school canteen.

Collaboration

The strength of the program lies primarily on the involvement of parents, the full cooperation and support of teachers, and the collaboration of the private sector, health professionals and student volunteers.

Parents took turns in cooking daily for the pupils as well as in preparing the tables and assisting the children during feeding time.

The teachers were involved in the measurement of the children's nutritional status, assisted in medical missions and deworming activities.

"We wanted the school to end up owning and managing the project to optimize commitment, to organize and implement specific health promoting activities, and to participate in monitoring and evaluation of the activities," Zarraga said.

The private sector provided the material means. The foundation acknowledges the help of the following sponsors: Glaxo-Smithkline, Universal Robina Corp., California Manufacturing Co. Inc., Kelloggs Philippines, the Global Voluntary Service of Japan, and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Japan.

The project is going to adopt six public elementary schools in Metro Manila starting next year: in Old Balara, Project 3, San Vicente, Krus na Ligas, all in Quezon City; Laong-Laan in Sampaloc, and Rosauro Almario in Tondo, Manila.

UCF is a private non-stock, non-profit organization that aims to help high school and university students in personal development and professional formation.

For more information about the foundation and "Eskwela-Tulungan," write University Center Foundation Inc. 28 Eugenio Lopez St., South Triangle Homes, 1103 Quezon City; call 924-2892 or 412-2900; or e-mail: ucf@skyinet.net

Manila cuts amusement tax by half

BY JEROME ANING

AFTER experiencing what it said was "a year of ambivalent results" at the box-office, the Manila city government on Friday said it would reduce by half the 30 percent amusement tax on ticket sales for local films shown in the capital's moviehouses.

In his weekly media forum, Mayor Lito Atienza told reporters the reduction would be done through an ordinance that would be filed next week by his son, Councilor Alejandro "Kim" Atienza of the city's 5th district.

The mayor said he expects the suffering local movie industry to get "a well deserved break," at least in Manila. But he did not say if moviegoers should expect lower ticket prices in Manila theaters.

"This is our own way of helping the local movie industry especially during these economically trying times," he said.

He also announced that starting this year, the city government is bringing back the annual Manila Film Festival, which has not been held in the past two years.

He said the last festival "was disappointing because of the dearth of quality films." He was to meet local movie producers Friday night to discuss the holding of the festival.

He said the 50-percent cut in amusement tax would mean less revenues for City Hall but this would be offset by "better performance" at the box-office, which would translate into additional revenues for the city.

He said he expects the move to result in more quality and more profitable local films.

The mayor said the amusement tax on ticket sales for foreign films would remain at 30 percent.

Trader kidnapped in QC

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ
Contributor

THREE armed men yesterday morning forcibly took a businessman in Fairview, Quezon City.

Police identified the victim as Jimmy Go, reportedly of Bulacan.

As of presstime, very little information was available on the circumstances behind the kidnapping and on the identity of the victim.

Initial information said Go and his driver, Ermie Ravilla, were on board a vehicle when three armed men blocked their path along Dahlia Street, near the FEU Hospital, and at gunpoint forced the two men to transfer to the suspects' vehicle.

Witnesses said the suspects used an Isuzu Highlander.

Ravilla, whom the alleged kidnappers released a few minutes later, reported the incident to the Central Police District.

The INQUIRER reached the CPD director, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, on his cellular phone but he declined to give a statement, saying he was still in a conference.

METROBRIEFS

Grenade in pocket

CAR REPAIRMAN Avelino Echavez was taking a leak on a Light Rail Transit post near the Blumentritt Station in Sta. Cruz, Manila late Friday night, when two Manila policemen spotted and accosted him for violating a city ordinance on urinating in public. But when PO3 Erwin Bucad and PO3 Reynaldo Gamboa approached Echavez, they noticed something bulging in the pocket of the suspect's jeans. Echavez, 47, a native of Cotabato City and resident of BBB, Valenzuela City, reportedly tried to flee but was caught after a brief chase. The policemen found a fragmentation grenade in his pocket. Echavez said he did not own the grenade and that he merely picked it up on nearby Antipolo Street where, earlier, two rival youth gangs had a brawl. Nevertheless, Echavez was taken to the Western Police District headquarters and charged with illegal possession of explosives.

Jerome Aning

Wrong mark

PEPSI Putulin, 15, merely tried to open the door for her relative on Friday, when a knife that was meant for her relative flew in through the door and hit her in the neck. Putulin, of Cordillera Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila died while undergoing treatment at the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center, said SPO3 Alfredo Salazar of the Western Police District. The victim's sister Elsie Putulin-Regondola told police that her husband Jun had a quarrel with a neighbor, Rodrigo Cabral, 24, about noon on Friday. The suspect was armed with a small bolo when he chased Jun right up to the latter's doorstep. As the girl opened the door for her brother-in-law, the suspect threw the knife at Jun and hit the victim instead. Police are now looking for Cabral, who fled after the incident. *Jerome Aning*

Deadly basketball

BARANGAY *tanod* Carlito Bautista, 49, was playing basketball on Zabala corner Tagumpay Street, Tondo, to mark the weeklong celebration of the feast of Sto. Niño in their barangay, when Nilo Esguia approached Bautista and slashed his abdomen with a long knife about 10 a.m. yesterday. No one knew why Esquia, 37, of Tagumpay Street, wanted to kill Bautista, a resident of Kagitingan Street, police said. The disemboweled victim died on the way to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center. *Jerome Aning*

Give 2.5M poor . . .

(From page A21)

government spent more than P50 billion for defense and more than P50 billion for public works.

"It is but appropriate to allocate the same amount for food subsidy," he said

To finance the food program, he said, "we can raise sin taxes. We can ask for subsidy from (the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.) and (the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office)."

"I would like to think that no one would say no if the ultimate objective is to feed the hungry," said the congressman whose city is known for its big squatter population.

The food program will be implemented by government agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Food Authority.

"I am also proposing that the local government units be given an active role," the congressman said. "If we can feed the hungry in the provinces, then we can stop urban migration.

"This," he added, "I believe, will spur countryside development."

Erice's proposed food distribution program is in House Bill NO. 4194 which he also filed last week. He sent the Inquirer copies of the bill and of his privilege speech on the food program.

ERICE

Honesty has no price tag . . .

(From page A21)

In doing the right thing, Castro "lost" the P500,000 but he got much more in return, he said.

"I was overwhelmed because when news spread about what happened, total strangers wrote me notes and many people at the Jeepney Bar applauded when they saw me," he recalled. "Some people wanted to be photographed with me. I felt like I was famous."

Letters from strangers who were touched by his honesty also poured in.

Platon himself was one of the first to write. He urged hotel management to cite Castro for his good deed. He also gave Castro a P5,000-reward.

Platon said Castro "now belongs to the vanishing breed of honest persons."

Hotel Intercontinental management also recognized Castro's honesty and gave him the "I Can Make the Difference" award.

"It is indeed gratifying to note that there are still people like you whose honesty, dedication and concern will always be a source of inspiration to your co-employees," said a management memorandum dated Sept. 13,,1999.

Superlative

Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Bayani S. Rivera, who was a stranger to Castro, left a note for the honest waiter, congratulating him for his "superlative sense of honesty."

"One American waited for hours at the lobby just to congratulate me," Castro said. "I was really touched. It again proved that doing the right thing would reap its own rewards."

Officers of the financial services firm Wharton Corp. came to the hotel to give him another reward of P5,000.

Castro was surprised when he was asked to speak during meetings of civic groups such as the Kiwanis Club, and for being honored by the provincial government of his hometown, Malolos, Bulacan.

His alma mater, the University of Regina Carmeli, also asked him to speak about honesty.

Castro said in his speech that he had to strength to say no to temptation when he found the money bag because of the values that he learned from his parents, Fortunato Castro and Corazon Mendoza.

"We may have been poor but we were rich in love and good advice from my parents," Castro said.

He said in the speech that the single act was one way of giving something back to his parents and to his children.

"I felt my parents, townmates and siblings were proud of me because of what I did," he said. "My heart is also filled with joy because of how happy I made my wife, my in-laws and, most of all, my three children."

Frontliner of the Year

It has been more than two years since that honesty incident. From his Jeepney Bar assignment, Castro has moved to the hotel poolside.

Rewards continued to come, including being named the "Frontliner of the Year" for the National Capital Region during the Kalakbay Awards of the Department of Tourism.

He was cited for having returned the money and for being a hardworking waiter and a model employee.

"He is not only honest but he also shares ideas to improve the standards of his work," Castro's superiors said in a memorandum they sent to the tourism department.

"He also works without supervision. He even finds time to assist co-employees and trainees in performing their duties."

Castro has also returned other items to their grateful owners, including cellular phones, wallets and important papers.

"All the blessings that I have received since the day I returned the money can never be bought with even half a million pesos," Castro said.

Joey Marquez hospitalized . . .

(From page A21)

"He did not collapse," Ricafort explained to the INQUIRER yesterday. "He was conscious when we brought him to the Cebu Doctor's Hospital (CDH) although later in the evening he was put to sleep so he could rest."

Ricafort, brother-in-law of Marquez's wife, actress Alma Moreno, said the attending physician, Dr. Francisco Choi, told them that the chest pain could be due to fatigue and dehydration, although a portion of his heart was not pumping well.

Sources in the hospital told the INQUIRER that during a medical examination called the 2-D echo procedure, doctors found that a part of the wall of Marquez's heart was not moving.

Ricafort said Marquez, an asthmatic, has not been known to have any heart problem. But he added that the mayor smokes at least one pack of cigarettes a day and his cholesterol level is a bit high.

Marquez was supposed to undergo an angiogram procedure yesterday to determine what was wrong with his heart.

But Ricafort said Marquez decided to check out of the hospital yesterday and would just rest in his room at the Waterfront Hotel in Barangay Lahug.

The mayor planned to have a medical check-up in Manila to make sure there is nothing wrong with his heart, according to Ricafort.

The mayor was playing golf with his companions about 2 p.m. Friday when he felt dizzy. The mayor complained of severe pain in his chest. Ricafort said Marquez looked pale and broke into a cold sweat.

"The mayor told us that he had been feeling the chest pain since Thursday but he ignored it," Ricafort said. "But the pain was more severe (on Friday). He was telling us, *'iba na ito.'* So we brought him to the hospital."

He was brought to the CDH's cardiovascular center and was later sedated so he could sleep.

Marquez's admission to the hospital came two months after the near-fatal accident of his stepson, actor Vandolph Quizon, in Pangasinan last Nov. 17.

Vandolph, 17, fell into a coma after the F-150 he was driving collided with a truck. He suffered multiple fractures.

His girlfriend, Desiree "Ishi" Raquiza, also fell into a coma and died two weeks after the accident.

Ricafort said Marquez wanted to join the contingent from Para□aque City, which will be joining the Sinulog grand parade today for the first time.

"Most likely, (Marquez) will ride on the float (of the Para□aque contingent)," he said. The mayor's wife is expected to lead about 40 dancers from Para□aque.

Marquez, his wife and children and some members of the Para□aque City council arrived in Cebu on Thursday. Moreno had a show at the New Cebu Coliseum Friday night.

Stabbing on bridge

SANGGUNIANG Kabataan chair Gerald Mallari, 21, was stabbed dead for nearly hitting a young man who was crossing the Lambingan Bridge in Sta. Mesa, Manila about 8:30 p.m. Friday, police said.

Mallari, of Interior 94, Pedro Gil Street, Bario Sta. Maria, was on his bicycle when he almost ran over the youth. Witnesses told police the angry youth slapped the SK chair, provoking a fistfight. Witnesses said Mallari managed to overpower his opponent, but two other youths ran to the latter's rescue. The two drew out daggers and stabbed Mallari in the chest and right side, police said. *Jerome Aning*

Suicide

JAPANESE Akashi Toshiyuki, 34, killed himself inside his Malate condominium unit Friday after he and his Filipina wife allegedly parted ways, police said. A native of Fukuoka, Japan and resident of Control III Condominium on Espiritu corner Estrada Streets, Toshiyuki left a suicide note written in Nipponga, which enclosed what police said was a picture of the victim's daughter.

Toshiyuki's roommate Ricky Lamata and condo maintenance man Randy Labao found the body at 6:50 p.m., said SPO4 Rodolfo Rival Jr. They told Rival that they decided against bringing the body to the nearest hospital because it was already stiff. Police learned the victim arrived in August last year and lived with his Filipina wife in Bacolod City. *Jerome Aning*

City Lite 88.3 bares first quarter power line-up

CITY LITE 88.3 starts the year with a bang by unveiling its exciting line-up of events.

Manila's Smooth Jazz station has got their listeners' first few months packed with more parties, movie premieres, concerts and great music.

The year for City Lite started with the advance screening of the action-packed war flick, "Behind Enemy Lines," at Robinson's Galleria Cinema.

This month also showcases the first installment of the year's City Lite "Party Nite Out" and "Jazz 'n' Grooves" bar tour series, which will continue until February and March. Top jazz performers will raid popular nightspots and hangouts.

"Party Nite Out" will be launched Jan. 25, 9 p.m. at Jazz Central in Makati, with Parliament Syndicate.

"Jazz 'n' Grooves" will be launched Jan. 31, 10 p.m. at Soul and Pepper, Millenium Plaza, Meralco Avenue, featuring the talented Richard Merck.

In the love month of February, couples are in for a treat with City Lite 88.3's annual Valentine promo, "Romance of a Lifetime," a night of love songs, candlelit dinner and enchantment, Feb. 14 at Hyatt Regency Manila's Grand Ballroom

Without a doubt, the busiest and most jam-packed month, March closes City Lite's 2002 first quarter with more celebrations and events.

The station unleashes its "Sports Olympics" to prove its popularity not only among the party-hearty, but also among health buffs. The two-part event will be held March 16 and 23.

MERCK. Featured in the "Jazz 'n' Grooves" show.

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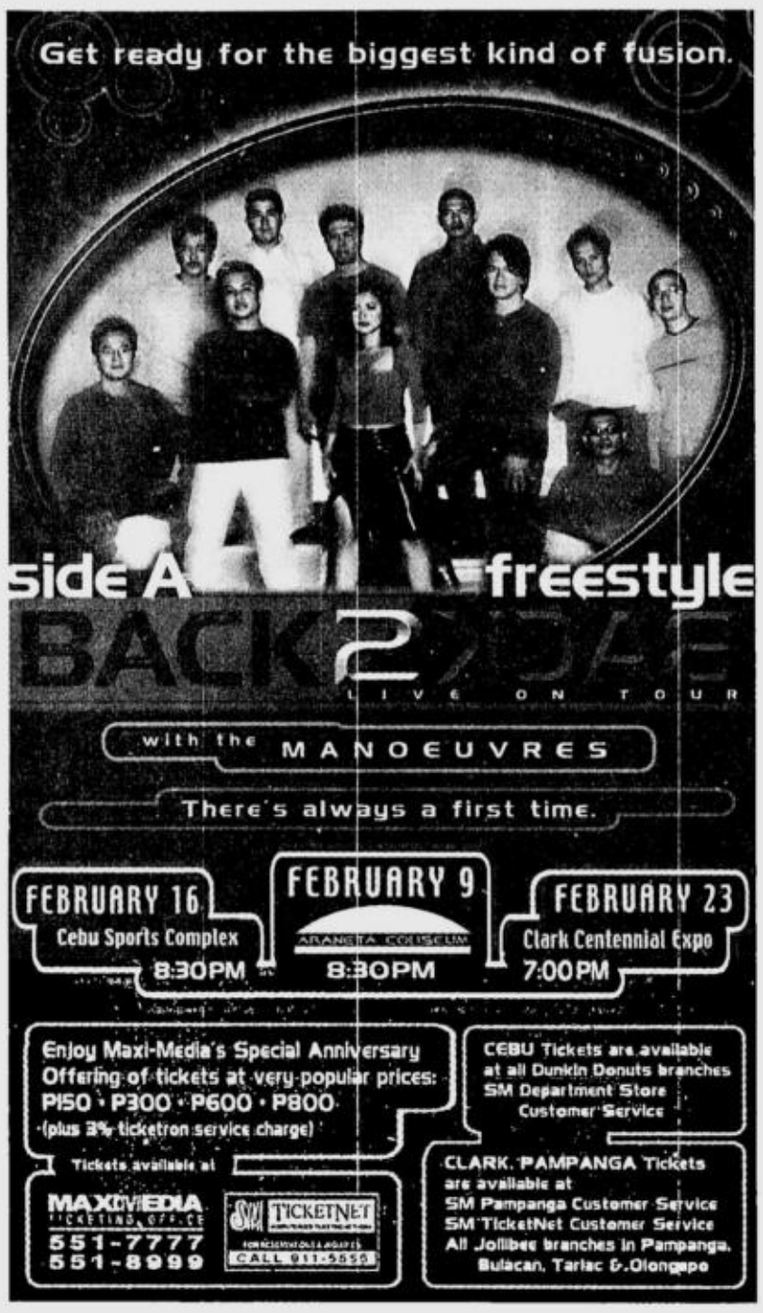

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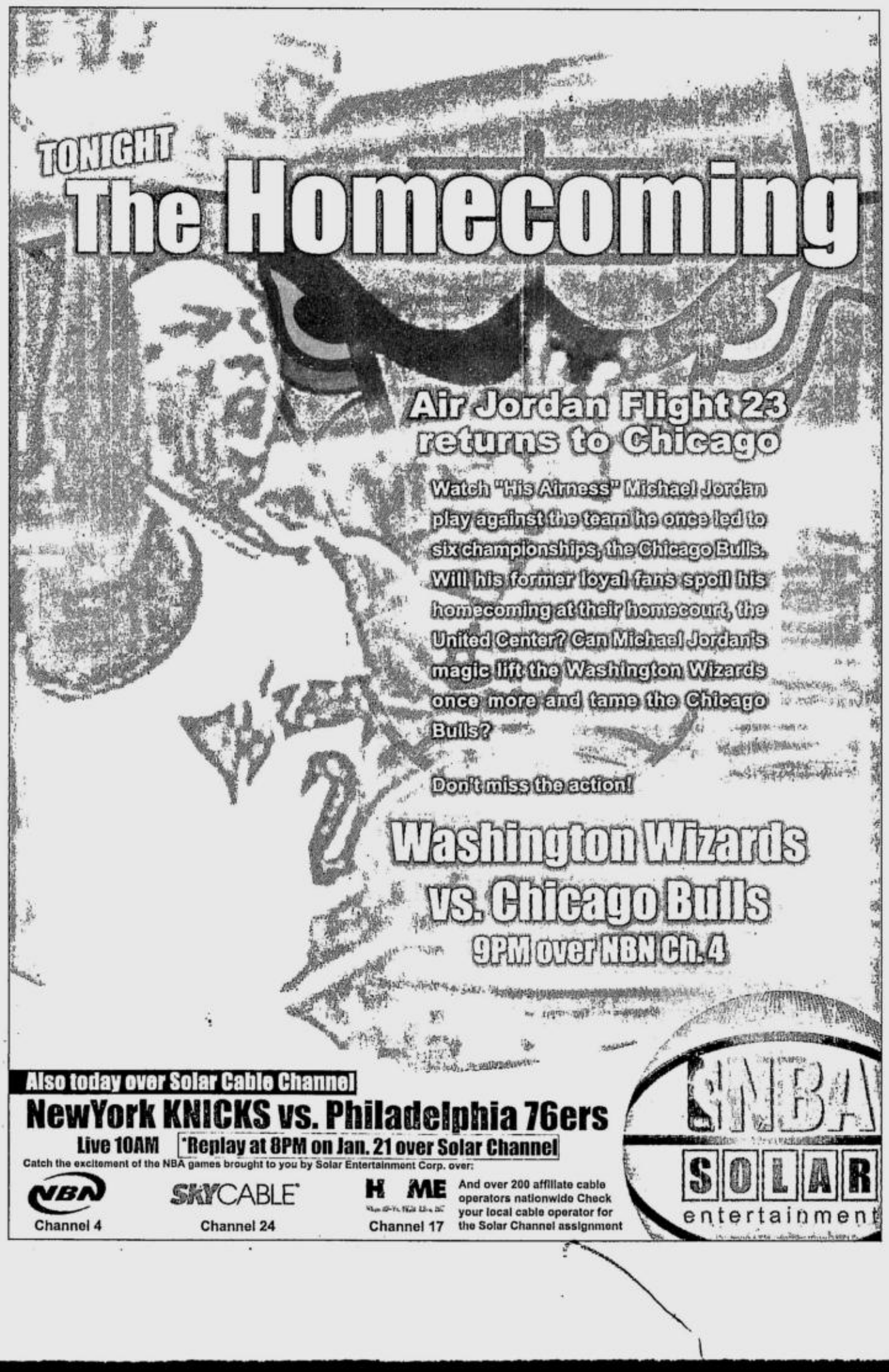

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3	WALANG IWANAN
4	

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3	RESERVE
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8 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
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6	BURLESK KING
7 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
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5	LORD OF THE RINGS

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2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
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1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	

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3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

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3 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	ZOOLANDER

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3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

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3	2 PISNGI NG LANGIT

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3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

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Drama series on RMN

RADIO Mindanao Network (RMN 558 khz) presents "Radyo Pitlag" to listeners of afternoon radio drama, Mondays to Fridays, 4 p.m.

The drama series, "Pitlag: Kwento ng Buhay, Isyu ng Bayan," a weeklong 30-minute social-drama forum, is produced by the Philippine News and Information Network (PNI). It innovates on the soap opera to share with the mass audience new ways of looking at issues and events as they affect people, communities and the nation.

"Radyo Pitlag" opened its new season with "Ground Zero," which started airing Jan. 14.

Written by Danny de la Cruz, Danny Flores and Gil Mendoza, "Ground Zero" recreates the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York, from the point of view of a Filipino nurse who is torn between performing her duties and wanting to search for her loved one in Ground Zero.

Next week's feature is "Urong-Sulong: Panalo Ka Ba, Bayan?," a look at the game show format that now has considerable following among TV audiences.

In the episode, Mang Minyong of Sitio Kasulukan, where only one TV set is shared by residents, gets a chance to be a game show contestant.

"Radyo Pitlag" is a brainchild of PNI vice president Noel Tolentino and Tet Maceda, a professor of the Philippine Literature and Philippine Studies at the University of the Philippines.

Completing the Pitlag team are Eli Guieb, a seven-time Palanca and CCP awardee from the UP College of Mass Communications; Alfredo Lazarte, an artist from the Asian Council for People's Culture; three young creative writers from UP; Palanca award winner Gil Mendoza; Gantimpalang Ani awardee Danny de la Cruz and Gawad Ka Amado Hernandez prize winner Danny Flores.

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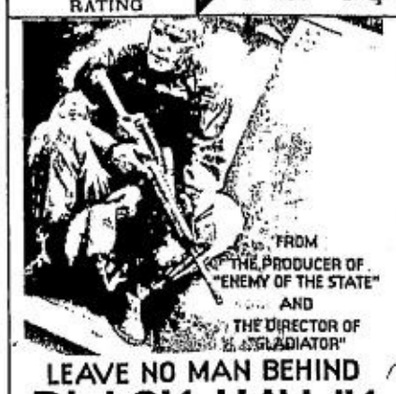

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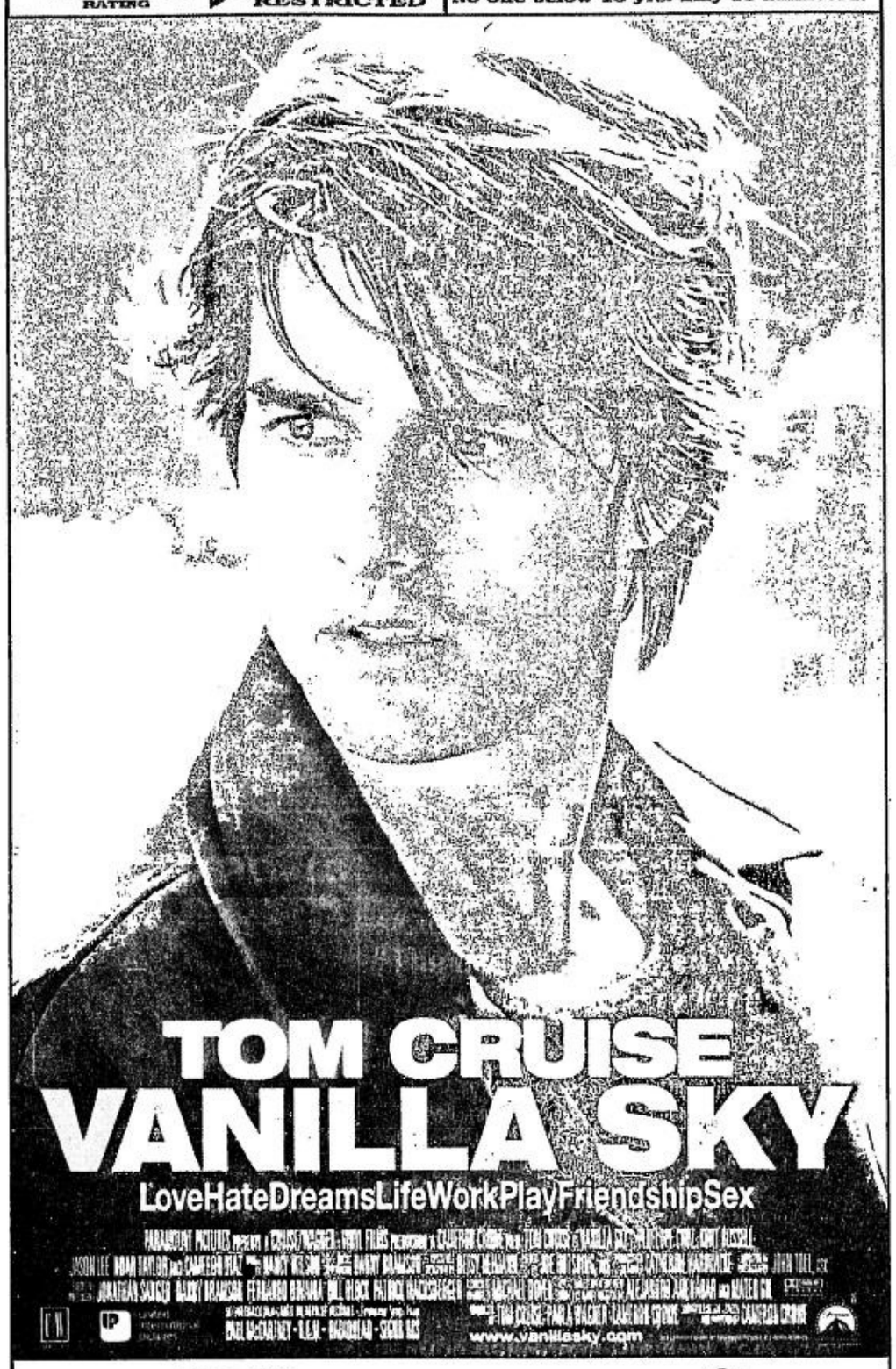

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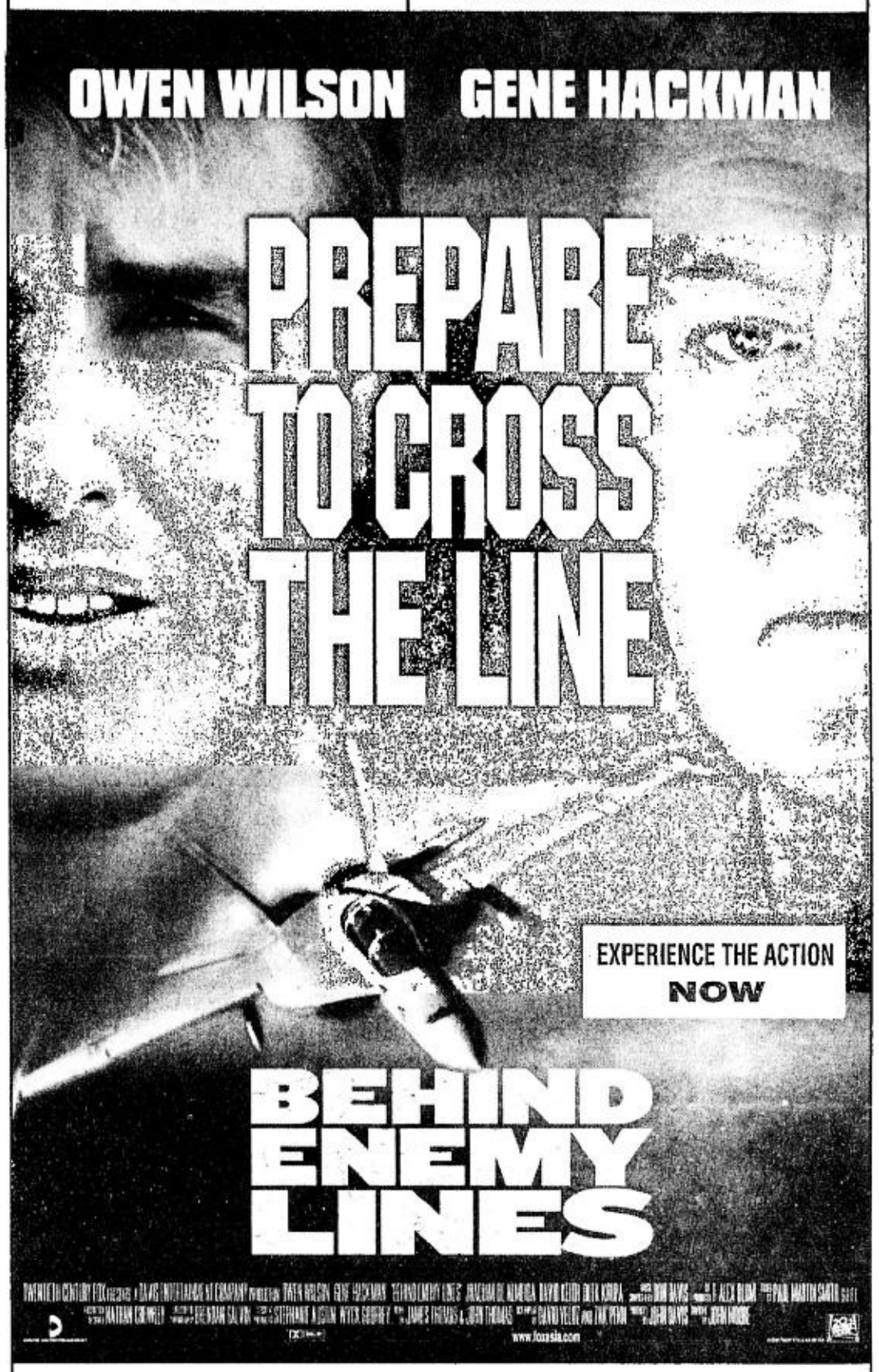

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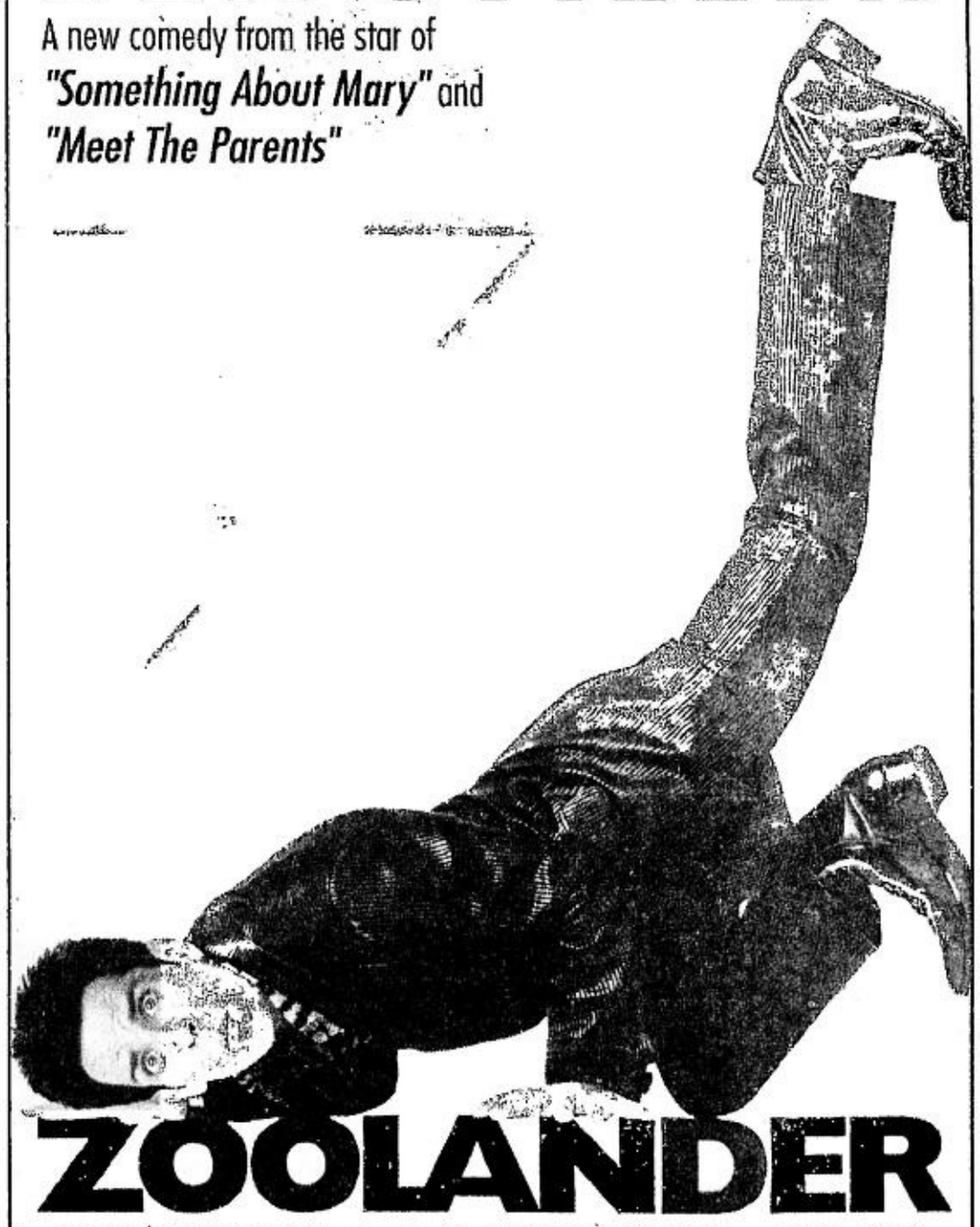

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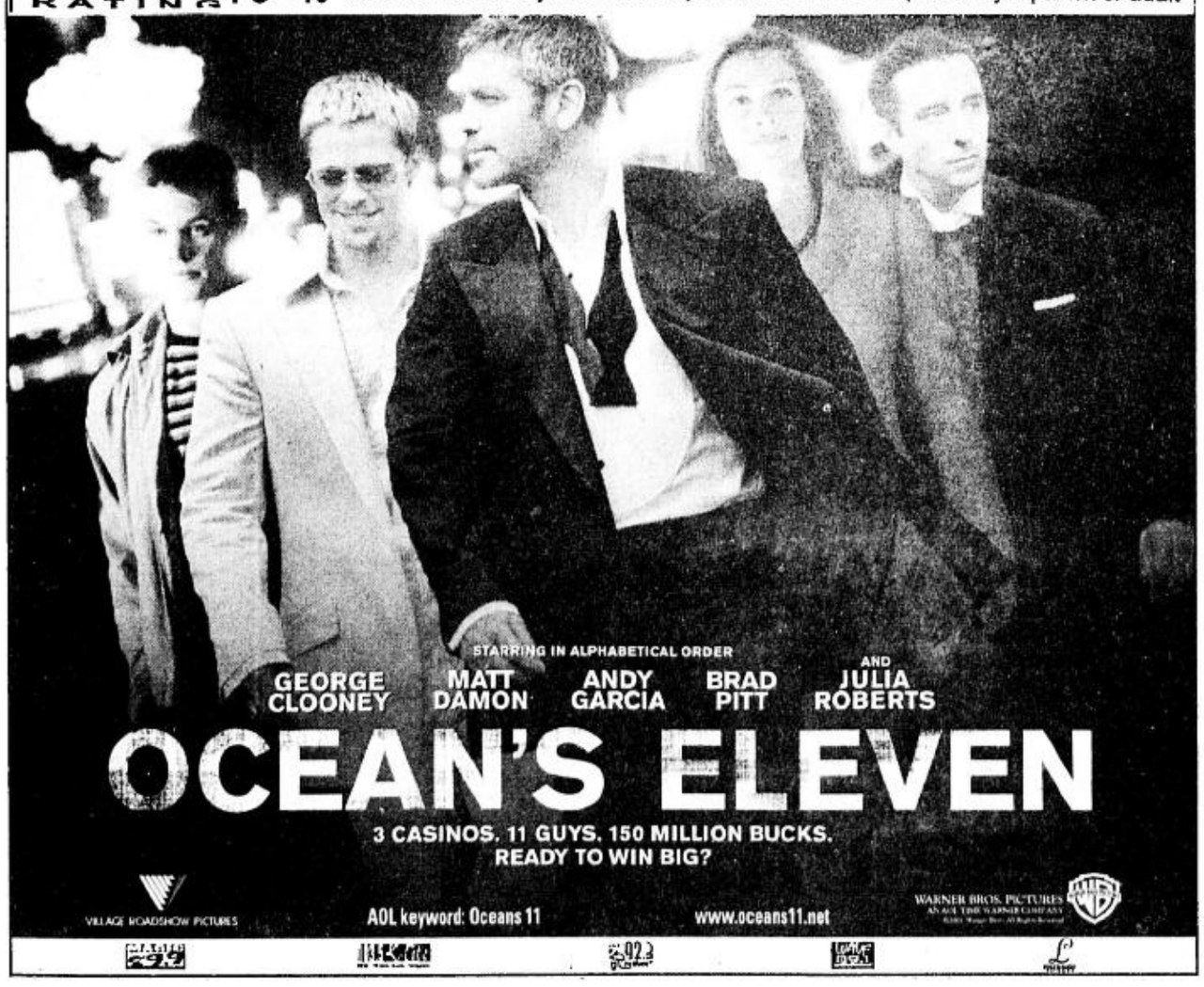

Search on for youths who personify MTV and Penshoppe

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

MTV is out to prove it's more than just a music channel.

When it recently sealed its partnership with Penshoppe, MTV also launched a nationwide search for members of a youth council to recognize the role young people play in society. The MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council is a search for five boys and five girls who will best personify the MTV and Penshoppe personality and spirit—young, hip, energetic, creative and fun-loving yet responsible.

"We've established MTV as a top music channel," says **Rod Nepomuceno**, MTV marketing and communications director, who is spearheading the campaign. "Since MTV influences the youth a lot, we want to weave it into their lifestyle. Part of my dream for MTV is to make it more than just a music and entertainment channel."

He says the MTV council will be composed of youth officers, spokespersons and ambassadors to schools or universities.

"He or she has to be someone who's looked up to in school because of his/her achievement and leadership and not just because of looks or fashion style," says Rod.

Penshoppe marketing director **Angelica Suiza** says they plan to make the youth council an annual search. "The youth must know how to have fun and at the same time must have a sense of purpose, propriety and responsibility," she says. "They will be our official ambassadors in schools."

The winners can work as MTV roving reporters or eventually become VJs or be part of the talent bank for potential VJs. Some of them will be awarded modeling contracts from Penshoppe and will act as the company's spokespersons.

During their one-year stint, members of the MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council will be active in socio-civic programs and youth-oriented and charitable activities. Former Club Pen member **Anne Feo-Maningo** will be in charge of the youth council.

The search is open to young people 14 to 20 years old who are high school or college students or are enrolled in DECS-approved programs.

The search will be conducted in private and public schools in Metro Manila and in key cities in the country. It will run until February.

"Through the MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council, MTV can show that it's not just about parties, music, videos and entertainment," Rod says. "It also means MTV believes in young people and that the youth can pursue something positive, while at the same time they're having clean fun. It is about being concerned and responsible and making the most out of life."

The Penshoppes' Club Pen, which was set up in 1986, is composed of young amateur models who embody the Penshoppe attitude and lifestyle—vibrant, dynamic, fresh and concerned. From the club came some of today's popular personalities such as **Paolo Bediones, Ryan Agoncillo** and **Maxine**.

Cali is also supporting the search as it promotes the attitude of "living life to the fullest."

MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council application forms will be distributed in schools. Interested parties may submit a fully accomplished form or bio-data and a three-sentence paragraph stating why he/she feels qualified to be part of the council.

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE YOUTH. MTV's Francis Lumen (left) with Cali's Anna Lisbona, Penshoppe's Angelica Suiza and MTV marketing and communications director Rod Nepomuceno during the launch of MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council search.

The forms should be accompanied by two 5R photos (one head shot and one full body shot). Application forms should be submitted to MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council Search, P.O. Box 1696 Makati Central Post Office, 1256 Makati City.

Applicants may also drop the forms in boxes in participating schools and in Penshoppe stores nationwide.

A big party launch will be held at the Glorietta Activity Center on Jan. 26.

Joey G alone

I MISSED the first solo show of Side A vocalist **Joey Generoso** at Captain's Bar late last year. So when Crossover announced it would present Joey G again in a solo concert, I didn't pass up the chance to see him perform live.

My only apprehension was Joey G might have the same repertoire that Side A has been doing in its regular gigs.

True enough, 90 percent of the songs were indeed lifted from Side A's repertoire. But no one seemed to mind. The spotlight was on Joey G alone and he obviously pleased the audience.

It was a full-house crowd, and to think it was a weekday night and it was not even payday. For sure most of the people in the audience that Thursday night were Side A fans, including my friends and I. Quite noticeably, though, none of Joey's fellow Side A members were there.

Joey opened the show with **David Pack**'s "Key To You," then he segued to "Keep This Love Alive."

I particularly liked "Never My Love" and the heart-wrenching "Please Don't Ask Me."

Joey admitted he was having jitters that night, but with his spirited performance, the crowd easily warmed up to him and apparently put him at ease.

Joey did other love songs like "Love is the Answer," "Promise Ain't Enough," "Send Me One Line," among others. Then he dished out his version of Five for Fighting's "Superman."

Joey sent the crowd to its feet when he gyrated onstage and sang dance tunes like "More Today," "Rock With You," "Could It Be I'm Falling in Love."

GENEROSO

I've heard Joey sing Aerosmith's "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing" nearly a dozen times. But each time he does, I never fail to love it.

Joey had a brilliant musical director, **Gerard Salonga**, who helped him line up the repertoire and made the show more entertaining.

Prior to the show, the versatile **Mitch Valdes** sent the audience into stitches with her musical comedy act. Mitch was so good she had the crowd in the palm of her hand the minute she stepped on stage.

Throughout her act, Mitch was spontaneous and downright funny. I don't think any other singer-comedienne could do her medley of '70s songs spiced with her wit.

I hope Crossover will also highlight Mitch's talent and produce a solo show for her at Captain's Bar.

For both Mitch and Joey, The Opera Quartet provided back-up vocals. The quartet also had their spot with such tunes as "Stay With Me," "Every Now and Then" and "Tattooed on My Mind."

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BEHIND ENEMY LINES - P13 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25	BEHIND ENEMY LINES - P13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	AMERICAN ADOBO - R18 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

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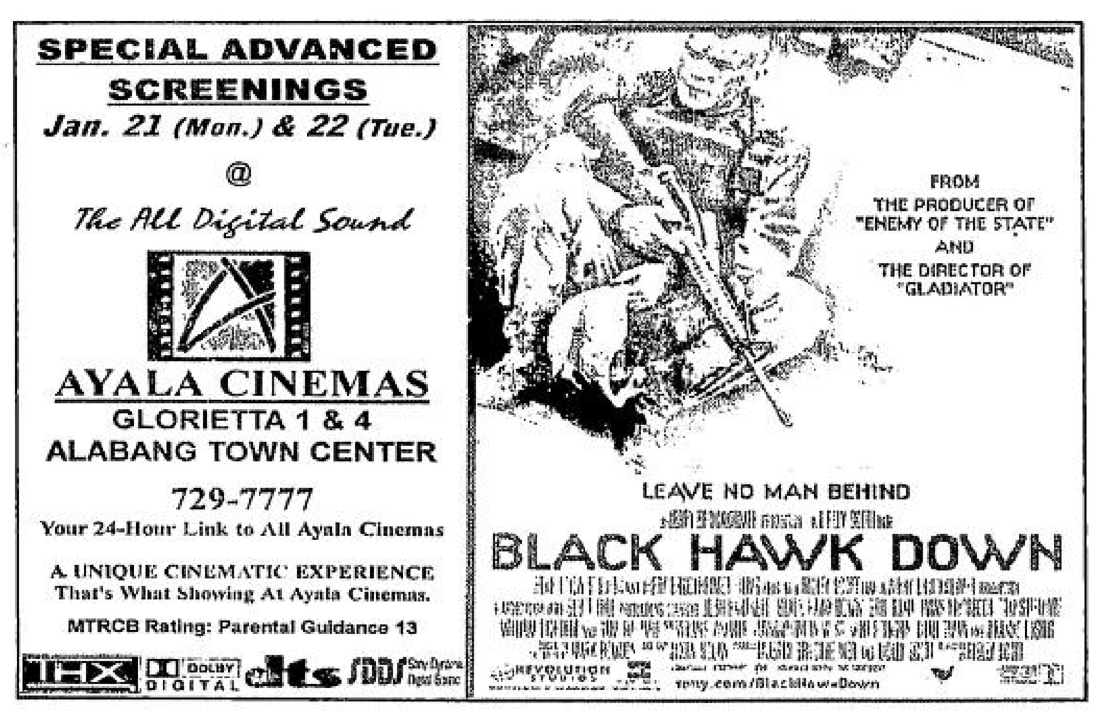

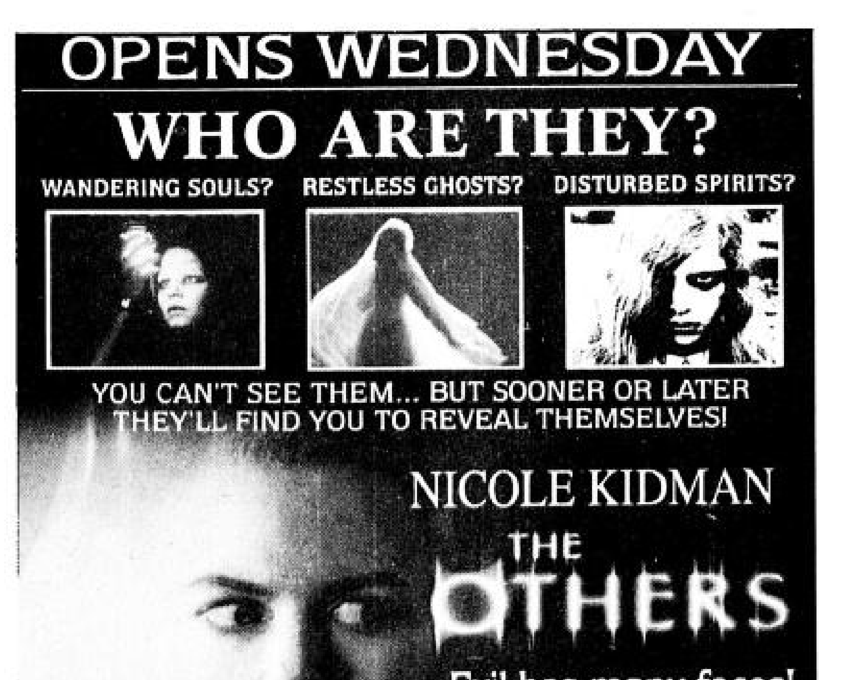

Marissa heats up freezing L.A.; Lea guests in most widely watched 'ER' episode

BY RUBEN V. NEPALES
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—On one of the coldest nights in L.A. (temperature in the 30s is considered "freezing" here), Marissa Sanchez warmed a club full of Filipinos and a sprinkling of Americans with her dynamic singing and off-the-cuff humor.

Appearing last in a show lamely titled "Three's a Company," Sanchez unleashed her powerful black soul-influenced vocal prowess, mimicking gift and comic skills. Sanchez is a singer comedienne who can really sing and at the same time make people laugh. But to a Pinoy in America, listening to Sanchez's wisecracks—raw, irreverent and sounding even more so when heard in Tagalog (sample: "*Bastusin mo ako*"—who would say "Harass me" today in litigation-fearing America?) was the bigger treat.

She invited a white guy to do suggestive movements behind her onstage, pelted a Latin-American dude on a date with a Fil-Am chick with private questions and hungrily opened a gift from a fan right in front of the audience. We rarely see this comic brazenness in mainstream American entertainment.

Audiences back home in Manila may already be very familiar with Sanchez's shtick and "rep" (repertoire, Sanchez's show biz savvy manager explained to us). But to the audience watching the double treat—(triple, if you count her dancing—the lady has smooth moves onstage) entertainer in her first US concert, she was, as they used to put it in pre-politically correct America, a gas.

Perhaps a sure audience pleaser in Manila is Sanchez's hilarious imitation of singers. With a squint of an eye here, a hunch of shoulders there, she was Jaya, Sharon, Zsa Zsa, Donna, Thalia, Lea and so on. What was remarkable, though, was her ability to mimic these singers' voices. All these singers became targets for funny spoofs.

Perhaps it's a compliment to Lea Salonga that she is the only one whom Sanchez mimics straight—no funny voice or body putdowns. Sanchez mimics Salonga's well-known highly polished voice and perfectly clear diction in uncanny fashion. It is a feat.

Staged in a salsa club named The Hop in a city south of downtown Los Angeles, the show also featured two names from Manila: Kaye Abad and Baron Geisler. The latter seemed like a nice young man, is reportedly a good actor, too, who admitted upfront that he can't sing, but he should have at least memorized the lyrics of his songs. Our "Germspesyal" milieu seemed to demand that actors also must sing, or croak, but there is no excuse for celebrities who lack in voice to make matters worse for the audience by reading lyrics from a piece of paper cupped in one hand.

With the talent she displayed in her five numbers, Sanchez deserves her own full show, a bigger audience and venue next time she comes to L.A. A "quiet" song or two, minus the vocal histrionics, should be included in her rep to provide an effective respite and contrast from her comic and singing bombast.

Lea in 'ER'

The real Lea Salonga recently made a guest appearance on "ER," which happened to be the episode in which star Eriq La Salle made his final performance as Dr. Benton. So our trailblazing singer-actress was fortunate to guest in the Christmas episode which attracted the hospital series' largest audience since May this year.

News reports stated that this particular telecast averaged a whopping 28.9 million viewers.

We almost missed watching Salonga in her guest stint on the episode titled "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and directed by Jonathan Kaplan. Our sister Myrna called to say she was watching the medical drama and she saw Salonga's name as one of the guests.

So we did something we rarely do: We turned on our TV and watched Salonga play a mother who, along with her husband, rushes an ill son the hospital.

It turned out that Salonga's character is seriously ill, too (she has lymphoma).

The Tony-winning actress made the most of her few scenes. She was quietly effective with her subtle, nuanced acting.

New 'hulk'

Remember this name: Eric Bana. He will be the new "Incredible Hulk" in a movie adaptation to be directed by no less than Ang Lee ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon").

We met this Australian actor of Croatian and German heritage, along with "Pearl Harbor" star Josh Hartnett in an interview about the movie in which they star, "Black Hawk Down."

'HARASS ME': Marissa and an American guest — JANET R. NEPALES

We predict that Bana, who has a supporting role as an American sergeant in this gripping war drama directed by Ridley Scott ("Gladiator," "Hannibal") will be one of the next big stars in Hollywood. He is already popular in Australia, having won the best actor citation from the Australian Film Institute for his performance in "Chopper," which created a buzz when it premiered at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival.

In an unusual move, Scott hired the tall, dark-haired Bana after watching only a videotape of "Chopper." Scott told us he felt a meeting with Bana was not necessary after seeing the actor's compelling portrayal of a killer.

They met for the first time on the set of "Black Hawk Down" in Morocco, which subbed for the film's setting, Somalia.

NBN 4

'We're not just a government mouthpiece'

THE FORMER People's Television (PTV) 4 has a new name, logo and station ID, thanks to its new chair, Mia Concio.

Now known as National Broadcasting Network, Channel 4 is still not competing against the giants GMA 7 and ABS-CBN. Concio, only 39, has a different vision for the network. She does not expect to turn around the station during her term, but with the help of her general manager, Joey Isabelo, she wants to transform Channel 4 into a news network similar to the BBC of London, Fox News Channel or CNN.

Q&A

Eventually, Concio no longer wants the network to simply be a government mouthpiece.

"We want to be sincere in translating the vision of the government," says the daughter of noted film director Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara and stepdaughter of ABS-CBN executive Charo Santos-Concio. "We also want to show that we are progressing."

How long have you been with Channel 4?

Isabelo: Since 1978. I rose from the ranks. I started with the National Media Production Center, then under (information minister Gregorio) Cendaña. My formal stint with Channel 4 started in 1986, as news deskman. It was then GTV 4.

Concio: I joined Channel 4 when President Arroyo appointed me as chair of the board of directors. But before that, I was already working in the TV and movie industry.

I started in the movies in 1988. I became account manager for RPN 9, then I handled programming and merchandising for Vintage TV for six years, then I moved to ABC 5 before I put up my own company.

What did you discover when you took over?

Aside from the dedicated work force of 425 people and the empty programming, there was a P300-million loan incurred during the time of Erap. Channel 4 was not earning and no revenues were being added.

Compared to Channel 9 and Channel 13, which has over 900 people, we have the smallest workforce. Unlike Channel 9, Channel 4 was earning only when PBA was still with us. So when PBA left, Channel 4 had to work out its own programming. So during Erap's time, the network aired jai-alai, lotto and bingo, which became the money-making programs.

But when we came in, all those games were no longer there. The only one left was PBL (Philippine Basketball League), plus the telemarketing shows and of course the news.

So when we sat down, the picture was pretty grim. Even money for the payroll was not enough. I think we came in on Feb. 12 and for the Feb. 15 payroll, there was only P3 million left in the bank. There was still P300 million payable this year (2001).

When I saw that, I told myself, "*Mali yata itong pinasukan ko.*"

I kind of expected it, but I didn't know it was that bad.

There was also the signed CNA (Collective Negotiations Agreement) and the cost intact was about P11 million a month. To break even, with P30 million a month, we had to earn the same as Channel 9 and Channel 5, and we're not those networks, so what were we going to do?

So we worked out the contract for the NBA Games which started in June. We also started to sell airtime by going around government financial institutions and asking for support. However, it didn't materialize at that time because the government was really cash-strapped.

We found out we have the reach, which is 92 percent nationwide. We are very competitive. We have 19 provincial stations and over 600 affiliates, so we're No. 3 in terms of reach.

We also have the equipment. We were the first to acquire digital technology. We have several OB vans, uplinks, microwaves, etc.

So we asked ourselves, why don't we develop the station and make it like the BBC in London or Fox News or CNN? We can concentrate on news.

Why news?

Channel 4 has been known as a news and public affairs station. It has won several awards from the CMMA and Gawad CCP. Hall of Fame *na nga.* So we said, why do we have to reinvent the wheel and compete with ABS-CBN or GMA? We don't have a Talent Center, nor do we have the money.

We started with "Hatol ng Bayan," a pre-election coverage. Last July, we launched "Tele-Dyaryo," the first two-hour newscast on primetime. For people who come home at 7 or 7:30 and fail to catch the 6 o'clock news and who have to sleep early, "Tele-Dyaryo" gives them a good opportunity to watch the news. It has a market.

We deployed all the OB vans to different parts of Metro Manila to get all the live points. We also have audio points in Davao and Cebu. Pretty soon, we're going to put up a live point in Baguio to cover the northern part of Luzon.

Having done that, we decided to improve our sports coverage. We started with the SEA Games (last) year. (This) year, we will go heavy in tennis, billiards, golf and other sports events. After that, we want to go into light entertainment, like E Channel, to develop our late-night programming after the news. But the style will not just be talking heads. We want to show events which happen, fashion, show biz, movies.

CONCIO

ISABELO

In the morning, we want to adopt the format of Lifestyle Channel for women, again using the same formula of covering it live. Let's say cooking. We will send an OB van to a restaurant or to the house of a celebrity. Those who don't have cable can watch all these things on Channel 4.

You rank third in reach.

How about viewership?

Concio: We're last.

Isabelo: We are number one in Samar, because NBN is the only station there.

Why did you change the name from People's Television to National Broadcasting Network?

When the President assumed office, we immediately saw the divisiveness of the country. Our vision is to be able to unify everyone. We want to translate that vision, we want to promote a sense of pride in every Filipino and a sense of nationalism. When you say "national" it's really one people, one nation, one vision. It doesn't sound segmented.

That's why we also changed the logo and the station ID. We also wanted to create an image that we are progressing and we're not just a government mouthpiece.

You're careful not to be called a government mouthpiece, but you are in fact a government mouthpiece?

When you say government mouthpiece, the common interpretation is propaganda. But when you try to communicate what the government says in the executive, legislative and judiciary, you're a communicator. Mouthpiece makes you sound like a parrot. But, like the BBC, you have to correctly inform the people.

What are you doing about the debt?

We are finding ways and means to be able to move it.

Who is to blame for the huge debt?

Isabelo: It increased only during the time of Estrada. The debt on the copyright provider started to accumulate and the station failed to pay. It was a little over $1 million.

Then when they covered the Olympic Games, they borrowed money again to be able to buy new equipment for the coverage.

The station also failed to remit its contributions to the GSIS. They ignored it until it became bigger.

Concio: The station has a pending case in the Sandiganbayan against the former general manager (Dick Trofeo), regarding Advent Asia, owned by Jessie Ejercito.

Jai-alai bought airtime from PTV before, but 15 percent of the money was said to have gone to Advent Asia. That was questioned by the Commission on Audit.

We also discovered this deal with a company called Avion, which agreed to program and market the whole primetime slot. That was about 21 to 23 hours a week, with Paramount films and TV series. The sharing would be 35-65, in favor of Avion. Of course, we asked how we were going to get the cash flow for salary if we had to wait 90 days for the collection.

They also had a contract with another company, Trans-Pacific Broadcasting Corp., which would provide satellite services to PTV 4. At that time, PTV was already locked in a commitment with Satel-Indo, an Indonesian satellite provider owned by the Indonesian government. They abruptly cut the contract with Satel-Indo and went to Trans-Pacific.

When we looked at the new contract, it was 300 times higher than Satel-Indo.

Satel-Indo threatened to file a case because of the cancellation and we might have faced an international diplomatic protest. So last Holy Week, the general manager had to go to Jakarta to talk with the Satel-Indo people to avoid any scandal.

Eventually, we canceled Trans-Pacific and honored the Satel-Indo contract. Because of that, Trans-Pacific got mad at us and called us "corrupt" and even went to Malacañang.

On top of that, we even faced a Japanese trading firm which provided the financing for PTV to buy equipment needed for the Sydney Olympics. We are questioning now how the deal was consummated because there was no strong board resolution to back up the transaction.

When did the station stop getting support from the government?

1996. In the charter, P1 billion was supposed to be appropriated for the infrastructure and equipment. Only P500 million was given to the station from 1992 to 1996.

Don't you regret having accepted this job?

I cannot simply say goodbye after realizing the enormity of the situation. With less than two years left, we want to use the time not to really turn the station around but hopefully to settle our debts and obligations.

After we took over, we were able to increase the revenue. From P3 million a month, it's now going as high as P20 million.

You rank third in the reach, but what about viewership?

We're last.

Isabelo: We are number one in Samar, because NBN is the only station there.

Was it a major blow when PBA left Channel 4?

Huge money for airtime was lost.

Shouldn't you worry about luring more viewers?

Rating is important. It's given that we cannot compete with Channel 2 and 7. But if we can get the market that we want, those who want to be informed, those who are hungry for information, that's enough for us.

Through sports, we also hope to develop interest among viewers. We are now the exclusive marketing arm of the PBL, unlike before when we only provided the airtime. We really want to be more active in sports (this) year.

What are you doing about the stigma attached to Channel 4 as the government station, even if you've changed the name and logo? Some people continue to avoid Channel 4.

We can only do so much right now. We have high hopes for "Tele-Dyaryo." It's very important to give quality news coverage. I'm not saying it's perfect. It's far from perfect, but every week, we sit down with the people behind "Tele-Dyaryo," including the anchors, Gani Oro and Chino Trinidad, and director Ed Finlan, to assess the reportage, the appearance and even the merchandising plugs, to bring in more viewers.

I brought in creative consultants like Freddie Infante and Fritz Ynfante, to help us with building up the image of the network.

I know you can't change viewing habits overnight. There are people who don't even watch free TV.

Won't you have game shows, like the other stations?

We have big plans (this) year.

Don't you plan to get contract stars?

Eventually, we want to build our own talent center and be competitive in terms of entertainment, too.

Do you think you have it in you to turn around Channel 4?

Growing up in this business, I can only do my best.

Does being a Concio help?

What I used to do helped because I have relationships with other people who have helped me along the way. My experience helps. I worked with other stations. Plus, of course, I'm the daughter of Lupita (Aquino-Kashiwahara). It also helps because that means a lot to other people.

What's your dream for NBN 4?

Isabelo: I want my kid to be able to tell her classmates, "My dad is from Channel 4."

For the employees, I hope no one will have to borrow "5-6'" from other people anymore.

Concio: I share the same vision.

Despite several administration changes, why is Channel 4 still there?

The will to be heard is there, despite the numerous coup attempts and even a fire. *Lumalaban kami.*

Louie C. Camino, Leah Salterio

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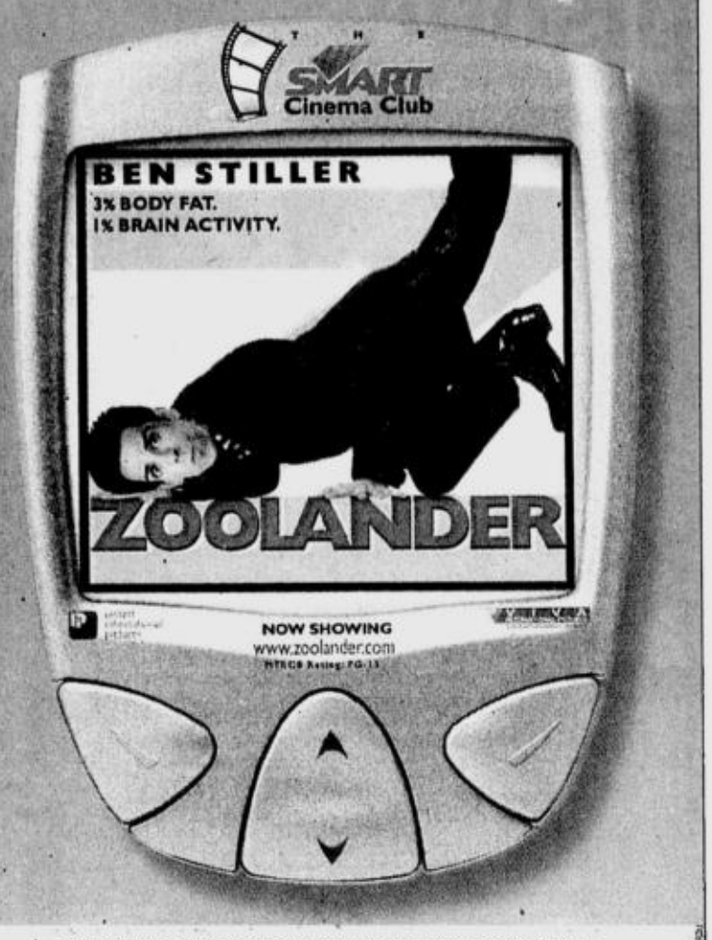

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Time to separate the leaders from the copycats.
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Sequel deluge in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood continues to borrow the business plan from the fast-food industry, whose three guiding words are franchise, franchise, franchise.

Even more so than 2001, the coming year brings a bounty of sequels, spinoffs, updates and film franchises in the making, led by the latest in the "Star Wars," "Harry Potter," "Lord of the Rings," "Star Trek," James Bond and Austin Powers series.

As last year proved, serving up more of the same in franchises such as "Rush Hour," "The Mummy," "Jurassic Park," "American Pie" and "Dr. Dolittle" means almost certain box-office success.

Most sequels did huge business in 2001, with many taking in more money than the originals.

Sequels once were largely cheap, inferior knockoffs meant to turn a quick buck. Hollywood has learned that putting more care into follow-ups—in many cases keeping the original cast and crew intact—amounts to a license to print money.

Bad name

"Sequels used to get a bad name as just rehashes," said Jeff Blake, president of worldwide marketing and distribution for Sony.

"The reason sequels now in most cases are outperforming the originals is that no corners are being cut on the 'Rush Hours' or 'American Pies.'"

Sony's sequels this summer include "Men in Black 2" and "Stuart Little 2," with the directors and main cast members returning from the first films.

Besides those films, the number "2" will be prominent in other big titles, including "Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams," "Blade 2" and "The Santa Clause 2: The Mrs. Clause."

Anthony Hopkins serves up another Hannibal Lecter feast in "The Silence of the Lambs" prequel, "Red Dragon."

"The Friday After Next" will be No. 3 in Ice Cube's series of urban comedies.

CIA character Jack Ryan, previously played by Alec Baldwin and Harrison Ford, this time is personified by Ben Affleck in Tom Clancy's "The Sum of All Fears."

Robert De Niro and Billy Crystal are back as a mobster-therapist pair in "Analyze That."

"Shanghai Noon" partners Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson leave behind the Wild West and head to England for "Shanghai Knights." Antonio Banderas returns as the El Mariachi gunslinger from "Desperado" in "Once Upon a Time in Mexico."

Blood sport

"Rollerball" is reborn, with John McTiernan directing the sci-fi update about a blood sport on skates. H.G. Wells' great-grandson Simon directs a new version of "The Time Machine," starring Guy Pearce ("Memento"). The "Friday the 13th" slasher series goes sci-fi with "Jason X," as 25th century archaeologists dig up the crazy killer.

Disney revisits classic tales with the prequel "The Young Black Stallion;" "Return to Never Land," an animated sequel to "Peter Pan;" and "Treasure Planet," a sci-fi animated adaptation of "Treasure Island." Disney-owned Miramax has a go at "Pinocchio," a live-action version starring Roberto Benigni, who also directs.

Pro wrestler The Rock reprises his bit from "The Mummy Returns" in "The Scorpion King," a spinoff about an ancient Egyptian warrior busting heads in a battle with the city of Gomorrah.

"It's not a 'Mummy' sequel," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal, the studio behind "The Mummy" flicks and "The Scorpion King." "It's starting the next generation in a different mode and hopefully creating a new franchise."

Line up now for your Scorpion King lunchboxes.

Mystery

Director M. Night Shyamalan ("The Sixth Sense," "Unbreakable") continues cornering the market on the Rod Serlingesque creepiness franchise with "Signs," starring Mel Gibson as a farmer trying to solve the mystery of crop circles that appear in his fields.

"E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial," a franchise unto itself, also makes a return engagement this spring with a 20th anniversary release containing previously unreleased footage and digital embellishments.

Comics, cartoons and TV shows are spawning a range of films, including the live-action "Spider-Man," starring Tobey Maguire.

There's also a live-action "Scooby-Doo," a big-screen take on "I Spy," and the animated flicks "Powerpuff Girls: The Movie," from the Cartoon Network show, and "Hey Arnold! The Movie" and "The Wild Thornberrys," both based on Nickelodeon series.

An original computer-animated film that could have franchise potential is "Ice Age," with the voices of Ray Romano, John Leguizamo and Jack Black in the tale of a woolly mammoth, saber toothed tiger, sloth and ratlike squirrel that battle the elements.

And teen-pop music franchise Britney Spears makes her film debut with "Crossroads," about three childhood friends reuniting for a cross-country road trip.

Spoof

Mike Myers and director Jay Roach collaborate a third time on their spy-spoof franchise with "Austin Powers in Goldmember," due out in July.

Pierce Brosnan is back around Thanksgiving for his fourth outing as 007 in the 20th official James Bond film, as yet untitled. Halle Berry plays the spy's latest villainess.

Also over the holidays, Capt. Jean-Luc Picard and the Enterprise crew embark on a peace mission with those nasty Romulans in "Star Trek: Nemesis," the 10th big-screen episode in Hollywood's most prolific science-fiction franchise.

The big three for the year are wizards, hobbits and clones. Coming in mid-May is "Star Wars: Episode II—The Attack of the Clones," a B-movie title for the most A-list of franchises. Ewan McGregor and Natalie Portman return as Obi-Wan Kenobi and Padme Amidala, with Hayden Christensen joining as the new Anakin Skywalker, who begins his journey to the dark side and his transformation into Darth Vader.

"Star Wars" creator George Lucas directs again and co-wrote the screenplay. The story takes place 10 years after "The Phantom Menace," with Jedi knights Obi-Wan and Anakin assigned to guard Padme when her life is threatened by political rebels.

Follow-up

"Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" materializes around Thanksgiving, with the franchise poised for a huge followup after the first film conjured up $300 million and counting in ticket sales.

JASON Biggs (left) and Eugene Levy in "American Pie 2."

Part two of the boy wizard's adventures went into production in London three days after "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" opened by shattering box-office records.

The gang from "Sorcerer's Stone" is back: Director Chris Columbus, child actors Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter), Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley) and Emma Watson (Hermione Granger), and the key adult cast, including Richard Harris, Maggie Smith and Robbie Coltrane.

Hot on Harry's heels will come the second installment of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic trilogy about a hobbit on a quest to destroy a magical ring that threatens all creation. "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" opens a week before Christmas, following the pattern of "The Fellowship of the Ring," which has soared past $200 million and is catching major awards attention as the Oscars approach.

All three "Lord of the Rings" films were shot simultaneously. Director Peter Jackson will spend the next two years overseeing post-production on parts two and three.

With part one done and scoring well with audiences and critics, working on the sequels is "like coming back to some old friend and carrying on the journey with the same old friends we had the first time around," Jackson said. "Now that the first one's a success, the weight of this huge risk has lifted. The next two literally can be made for fun and the joy of making films." *AP*

Fashion world spoofed in 'Zoolander'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

BEN Stiller has made a name for himself as a film comedian and director with movies like "Reality Bites" (described by a reviewer as "an incisive examination of Generation X, whose young people are confused and repelled by the world being handed to them").

Stiller's current film, "Zoolander,' is his biggest production to date, simply because it tries to bring to satirical life the big, wild world of high fashion and modeling.

In the film, which Stiller also co-wrote and produced, the star-director plays the world's top male model, whose glamorous world crumbles when his fame is eclipsed by a brash, young talent (**Owen Wilson**).

Down in the dumps, Stiller's character becomes putty In the evil hands of a top fashion designer, Mugatu (**Will Ferrell**) who turns out (this is a comedy, remember) to be the brains behind all of the political assassinations in the past 200 years! With tongue firmly in cheek, the film stoutly declares that all of those Mugatu-ordered assassinations were carried out by male models!

This time around, Mugatu wants Stiller's character to bump off the prime minister of Malaysia during a fashion show that will be staged in his honor.

Stiller doesn't want to do it, but he's been psychologically programmed to obey, no matter what. The only people who can help him are a Time magazine correspondent (**Christine Taylor**)—and Owen Wilson's character!

Yes, the two rivals become friends toward the end of the comedy caper, Stiller ends up a hero instead of a heel, and the Malaysian prime minister gets to keep his head. Happy ending!

Even better, director Stiller keeps his film eventful and delightful (sometimes, outrageously so), and the audience rewards his efforts with chuckles and belly laughs. Stiller's combination of laugh-provoking shticks is sometimes an ungainly mix, but the giggles and yuks do keep coming.

As actor, Stiller succeeds in coming across as a top model, despite his lack of hunky looks, simply by satirizing the character type. Wilson is right behind him as his main rival, and the two comic actors have a fun time bouncing off each other, trying to see who can be the dumbest and most trying-hard male model of all time.

The film also scores big points in terms of production design, and its supporting players are a companionably antic lot.

Special mention should be made of a very heavily made-up **Milla Jovovich**, who is hardly recognizable as Mugatu's evil assistant, Katinka.

To fully enjoy "Zoolander," viewers should be sort of familiar with the fashion world and its excesses, so they know who is being spoofed, and why. Aside from that caveat, Stiller's new film can be enjoyed by one and all—provided you can excuse occasional comically-unproductive detours like Stiller's miner dad and his foundation for deprived kids.

Cooking showdown

STAR World premieres "Iron Chef USA: Showdown in Las Vegas" on Thursday, Jan. 31 (with replays on Feb. 1 at 12:30 a.m., 3:30 a.m. and 12 noon, and on Feb. 3 at 4 p.m.).

"Showdown" is made up of two one-hour specials based on the popular Japanese culinary show "Iron Chef." **William Shatner** is the Chairman who provides over the smoking-hot action as the world's top chefs roast, toast and saute their way to gustatory glory.

Golden Globes

ALSO on Star World, the 59th annual Golden Globe awards will be aired live at 9 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 21 (with primetime rebroadcast at 8 p.m.).

Star presentors include **Tom Hanks, Benjamin Bratt, Renée Zellweger, Mike Myers, Kelsey Grammer, Cameron Diaz, Mel Gibson, Josh Hartnett, Kate Hudson** and **Sela Ward**.

Nominated in various categories are **Russell Crowe, Kevin Spacey, Will Smith, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman, Halle Berry** and **Kate Winslet**.

'Mummies Return' on Discovery Channel's three-hour special

FROM China to Egypt to Alaska, USA, discoveries of centuries-old mummies reveal secrets of ancient and unknown cultures. Many archaeologists dedicate their lives to searching for that one clue which might uncover the mysteries surrounding a civilization's birth, rise or demise.

This month, Discovery Channel takes viewers on archaeological expeditions across the globe for encounters with the first "Americans," 4,000-year-old Caucasoid mummies in China and the burial site of a legendary Egyptian genius.

Featuring the premiere program The Mystery of the Alaskan Mummies, the three-part programming event, "Get Real: Mummies Return" airs tonight, 7 to 10 p.m. (Manila Time), with encores the following day at 2 a.m.

The investigation begins as viewers join Egyptologists for what may be the greatest discovery of the 20th century—the burial site of Imhotep. Lost Mummy of Imhotep profiles the life of this great Egyptian who was a physician, architect and doctor and was revered as a god to his people.

In "The Mystery of the Alaskan Mummies," the story of the little-known Aleutian people of Alaska comes to life through reenactments and unbelievable mummy findings.

Finally, "Riddle of the Desert Mummies" journeys to the Chinese region of Xinjiang, where extremely rare, thousands-of-years-old mummies have been found.

The mystery behind this find is not how old the mummies are, but the fact that they are Caucasoid, not Chinese.

Discovery Channel, which airs programming 24 hours a day, serves households throughout Asia and the Pacific Rim. Available via Palapa C2 and PanAmSat VIII, the network is operated and managed by Discovery Communications Inc., the leading global real-world media and entertainment company.

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BSP chief started out as a credit investigator

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

IT is hard to imagine how today's business icons once lugged heavy books to sell, worked at the school canteen, sold pens and paper.

While these were not among the menial tasks that Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura had once performed, it was still odd to think that a man of his stature, one who had just been voted by the Banker magazine as the Asian central banker of the year, once walked the scorching streets of Escolta during his early years to visit banks and go through their records.

FIRST JOB

Who would have thought that Buenaventura had been making the rounds of banks even before he acquired a college degree?

During that time, it was to research and to use bank records as reference to see whether any of his employer's prospective clients was a bad egg.

BUENAVENTURA once walked the streets of Escolta to visit banks. EDWIN BACASMAS

In short, he was a credit investigator, a position comparable to a young reporter who would be assigned to cover the police beat.

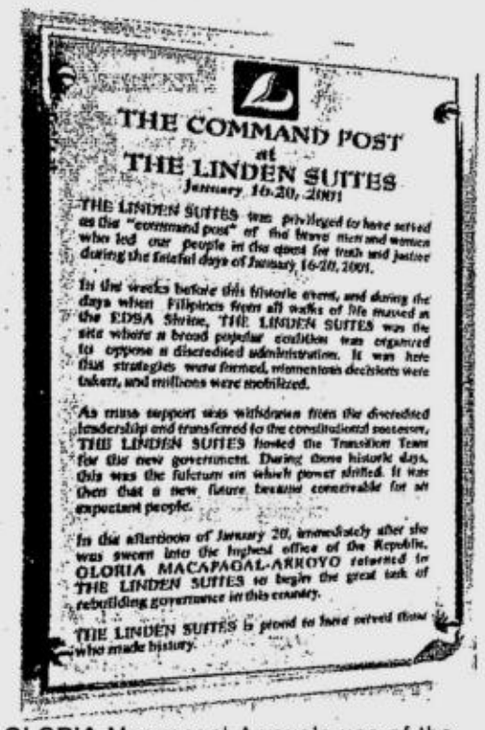
In 1958 during his fourth year in college, taking up Commerce, at the De La Salle University, the central bank chief had taken a day-job like most of his classmates. The last year in college at DLSU at that time was a night-class so that the seniors could prepare for a career, or at least, start pondering one.

Buenaventura was hired as credit investigator by Security Bank and since he was not working for a family business, he was excused from the first subject in class.

Knowing the governor to work hard and play hard, the privilege was something he had explored to the hilt. He had to balance his schedule with a busy extra-curricular line up since he was the company commander of the ROTC and a varsity in the track and field team.

BSP/ B3

IN HIS senior year the future BSP governor walked during the day.



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THE LINDEN SUITES
January 16-20, 2001

THE LINDEN SUITES was privileged to have served as the "command post" of the brave men and women who led our people in this quest for truth and justice during the fateful days of January 16-20, 2001.

In the weeks before this historic event, and during the days when Filipinos from all walks of life massed in the EDSA Shrine, THE LINDEN SUITES was the site where a broad popular coalition was organized to oppose a discredited administration. It was here that strategies were formed, momentous decisions were taken, and millions were mobilized.

As mass support was withdrawn from the discredited leadership and transferred to the constitutional successor, THE LINDEN SUITES hosted the Transition Team for the new government. During these historic days, this was the fulcrum on which power shifted. It was then that a new future became conceivable for an expectant people.

In the afternoon of January 20, immediately after she was sworn into the highest office of the Republic, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO returned to THE LINDEN SUITES to begin the great task of rebuilding governance in this country.

THE LINDEN SUITES is proud to have served those who made history.

GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo's use of the Linden Suites during Edsa II rescued the hotel from relative obscurity.

Hotel makes history

THE hotel is among the newer ones that keep sprouting in the Ortigas Center in Pasig. It stands along San Miguel Avenue. Since its launch in February 2000, The Linden Suites has just been quietly serving its largely corporate clientele.

Who would have thought that on Jan. 16, 2001, an unexpected guest would come in, stay on for practically four days, stay out for a few hours on the fourth day, and later come back as President.

The story is, The Linden Suites was caught unawares it would play host to the "Transition Team for the new government" of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Its general manager, Justin Phillips, still recalls how the hotel just stood at the right place at the right time.

He still feels incredulous over how, while standing by the third door window, he chanced upon the convoy of the would-be President as it wound its way to the hotel—unannounced, without fanfare.

For Alex Magno, one of Ms Macapagal's political advisers then, and now, the hotel could not have been any less than the most "logical" place—a perfect setup—for a "command post" from which to launch a final push to oust then President Joseph Estrada.

Historic, strategic

The Linden Suites, well up until then, existed in "relative obscurity." It had the ideal security arrangement: Only registered guests walk along any of its floors, each secured by the hotel's personalized card system access. Entrances and exits were well guarded, with four of its floors having a separate lobby and reception area.

It could handle all business needs. A revolution indeed is no picnic but the hotel's nerve-soothing jacuzzi, indoor swimming pool and sauna and massage facilities kept enticing bodies that were tired from long drawn-out meetings.

The Linden Suites had a roof-deck, high enough to monitor "crowd developments" in Edsa. To top it all, it had a "sympathetic" owner in Sonny Dominguez, its chair and president. The Linden Suites was a perfect setup, as history unfolded outside its doors. It became at once strategic and historic.

Nerve centers

Magno says that at the time, the multisectoral United Opposition was gearing up for what it considered to be the "trigger event"—Estrada's acquittal in the impeachment trial. Of course it was not to be.

HOTEL/B2

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Hotel makes history

(From page B1)

After the fateful Senate vote on the evening of Jan. 16, 2001, marked by the walkout of the prosecution panel and the instantaneous massing up at the Edsa Shrine by midnight, the United Opposition regrouped. From the midnight Mass held in the historic grounds, then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo proceeded to The Linden Suites. Contrary to earlier reports, GMA was already holed up in the hotel holding marathon meetings with her key advisers as early as the wee hours of the 17th. She was not to leave the hotel, except for brief visits to her residence in Loyola Heights, till it was time for her to take oath on Saturday, Jan. 20.

Magno, who was also part of what was called the "Strategic Assessment Team for the Multisectoral United Opposition" based in Gabrielle III, was thrust into the so-called Linden Core Group, primarily tasked to handle media and political operations.

It was all systems go. It was then that The Linden Suites, as if on cue, was immediately transformed into a "Command Post."

Magno enthuses: "It was here that strategies were formed, momentous decisions were taken and millions were mobilized."

Recalls Phillips: "We had so little time. My all-Filipino staff had to respond quickly. We had only a few minutes to transform our function rooms into a high-level operations center."

Trigger event

The entire fourth floor housing the business center was it, with the boardroom serving as the Opposition's War Room. Magno says crucial to the "Linden Operations" was the need for speedy decision-making. Meantime, the hotel staff worked round-the-clock.

The boardroom-turned-War Room, which has since been named after the President, was designed to comfortably seat 12 people. Magno says there were at least 25 people huddled together at any given time.

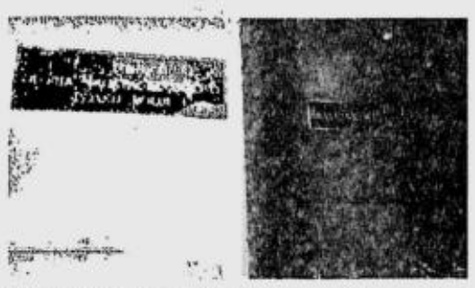
Privacy, security

It is to The Linden Suites' credit that the moves made by the United Opposition on Jan. 16 and 17 were kept under wraps. Privacy and security worked for the hotel in the unexpected turn of events. Security may have been tighter in entrances and exits, but hardly any uniformed men were seen loitering along corridors.

According to Magno, the only time media was able to know of GMA's whereabouts was when it followed former President Fidel Ramos who, upon arrival from abroad on the 18th, walked from the airport all the way to Edsa and later to the hotel.

'Bread Alert'

By then, two function rooms adjacent to the boardroom were transformed into a media center. Indeed, by Friday morning when all was found out, The Linden Suites was already teeming with people—in all their shapes and sizes and colors—even jobseekers, prompting one writer to note, "For a while there, anybody who's nobody who wants to be somebody was there."



THE ROOM that GMA used is now a popular attraction.

For the staff of Monsoon, the hotel's bar and restaurant, it could only mean one thing: The "Bread Alert" was up! An all-night buffet was set up. Coffee came by the gallons. Sandwiches galore. All day long.

Strategic decisions

Monsoon, well, also served as "the other" reception area. Magno jokes he had to double up as a "GRO," alternately "entertain" top dignitaries and "intercept" those who feel "important enough" to barge into the War Room.

Meantime, leaders of the mass groups, tasked as rally organizers, were holed up at the Galleria Suites to do more strategizing. Magno, who was coordinating directly with GMA, says the Linden Group kept coming up with other "strategic decisions" based on "intelligence information" being coursed through Linden. More and more quick decisions had to be made, from alliance building with politicians to logistics to the management of GMA's schedule and press statements. While there were only minor disagreements on these, a heated debate ensued as to when the people will march to the Palace.

Toward midnight of the 19th, a visibly tired but "looking content" Vice President retires to her room—Suite 2307. It is a one-bedroom affair that had its own receiving area and kitchen on the 23rd floor, but that which she hardly used.

In fact, she barely had two hours of sleep before she took her oath on the 20th. Close friends and her staff were booked in two other suites on the same floor.

After swearing in she went back to Linden and held multisectoral meetings and press conferences at the roof-deck.

Business-perfect

A year after those momentous days of Edsa II, some of the bills remain unpaid, but Linden Suites boasts of having the highest occupancy rate in the Ortigas Business Center. Its clientele is almost exclusively corporate business.

"The fact that the hotel does not depend on tourism bookings from travel agencies is our best hedge against the tourism slump," Phillips contends.

The competitive room rates—P2999++ for an executive suite—are the main attractions.

"It has been a delight and an honor to be part of the country's history, while continuing to cater to Philippine business," Phillips beams.

Breathless prose, stories about people nurturing trees

"Mountains of Triumph"
By Roy Iglesias
PNOC–EDC, 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

YOU drive up north toward Subic and you see, from afar, mountains colored brown and gold. Nothing sentimental there, because that shows the mountains are rid of forest cover and are, to put it plainly, bald.

Your plane hovers over Mindanao, and as you look through the window, you note land blocks of brown, gold and yellow on mountains and you conclude—These too are bald. Then your eye catches patches of green—a refreshing sight with a refreshing thought: Some parts of the mountain are going through reforestation!

What's going on inside those forests, when a multitude of trees grow, whose hands nurture them? When they are cut down or burned, what form do these malevolent forces take—*kaingineros*, illegal loggers . . . and their murderous ilk?

What does it mean to see evil face to face when you want to save the trees while armed insurgents are ready to shoot you?

EXECUTIVE READ

Despite well-rehearsed possible reactions when death or bloodletting comes, what do you really do when the passenger beside you suddenly slumps, after receiving a hail of bullets from the underbrush?

When day breaks, you wake up to see a multitude of community folks breaking the good news that they now also "own" the idea of taking care of the forest—said with the brightest toothy smiles you have ever seen in your life.

Are you emotionally prepared for such a magical moment?

The book "Mountains of Triumph"—to paraphrase a familiar saying—brings you closer to the trees you usually miss because all you have seen are forests.

Actually, the book brings the reader where the action is and where dreams begin—right in the middle of community folk working hand in hand with well-meaning organizations to save and nurture their sole salvation: the perpetuation of forests.

One could simply summarize this book as a story book on the social forestry project of both the PNOC Energy Development Corp. and the New Zealand government—with a forestry manual thrown in—and would rest in the thought that he/she has captured the spirit of the book. Not so.

That's oversimplifying it as a one-dimensional coffee table book that has postcard perfect pictures and elegant prose fit for an award-winning brochure. Actually, it is a coffee table book—and much, much more.

What we have here is a gripping account of warm-blooded people, leaving the comforts of plush offices in the concrete jungle, and penetrating deep into many forests all over the country to experience first hand what it means to share your dreams and your fears and strategies with the simple folk about how to secure a shared future and how to restore a vanishing forest.

And yet, the accounts are not the usual stuff you find in annual reports, rid of the real stuff and drama life is made of.

Listen to this: "The rifle was aimed at a bend of the empty, twisting road. An innocuous target, it seemed, until moments later when a pickup truck came into view. Then the sniper knew his vigil was finally going to pay off. In the truck, Emmie Ybanez was seated in front, between the driver and her officemate Mon Arong who, like her, was also an extension worker of PNOC EDC's Environmental Management Department . . .

"Suddenly, a loud burst of gunfire by the crashing sound of broken glass from the windshield jolted Emmie out of her thoughts."

Read on through the breathless prose when you get hold of this book.

The book also connects the life of executives who shuttle from concrete to real jungles: "Agnes de Jesus was on her way to a conference in another building when she saw the earthworm twisting and twirling on the carpet of her office, moving towards the door. The little creature has ventured beyond its world, crawling out of the pot of tropical plant by the desk, crossing the unfamiliar terrain of the carpeted floor . . . to search for a fresh patch of earth to till."

This book opens a fresh new possibility in reporting the dream and drama, conflict and concord, the tremulous truce and the lasting peace inside our many forests.

The book is shorn of slogan, and has steered clear of anemic prose that usually marked reports on the great work done by foresters and the community folk to protect every tree in the mountain.

When you read the book, you do not only sense the triumph of the human spirit, not only the victory of good storytelling over trite reportage—but you sense the soul of the community.

And before you know it, you feel you are part of the same community, feel the sunlight in your soul, and acquire the communal heartthrob of the forest dwellers.

(dantemv@i-next.net)

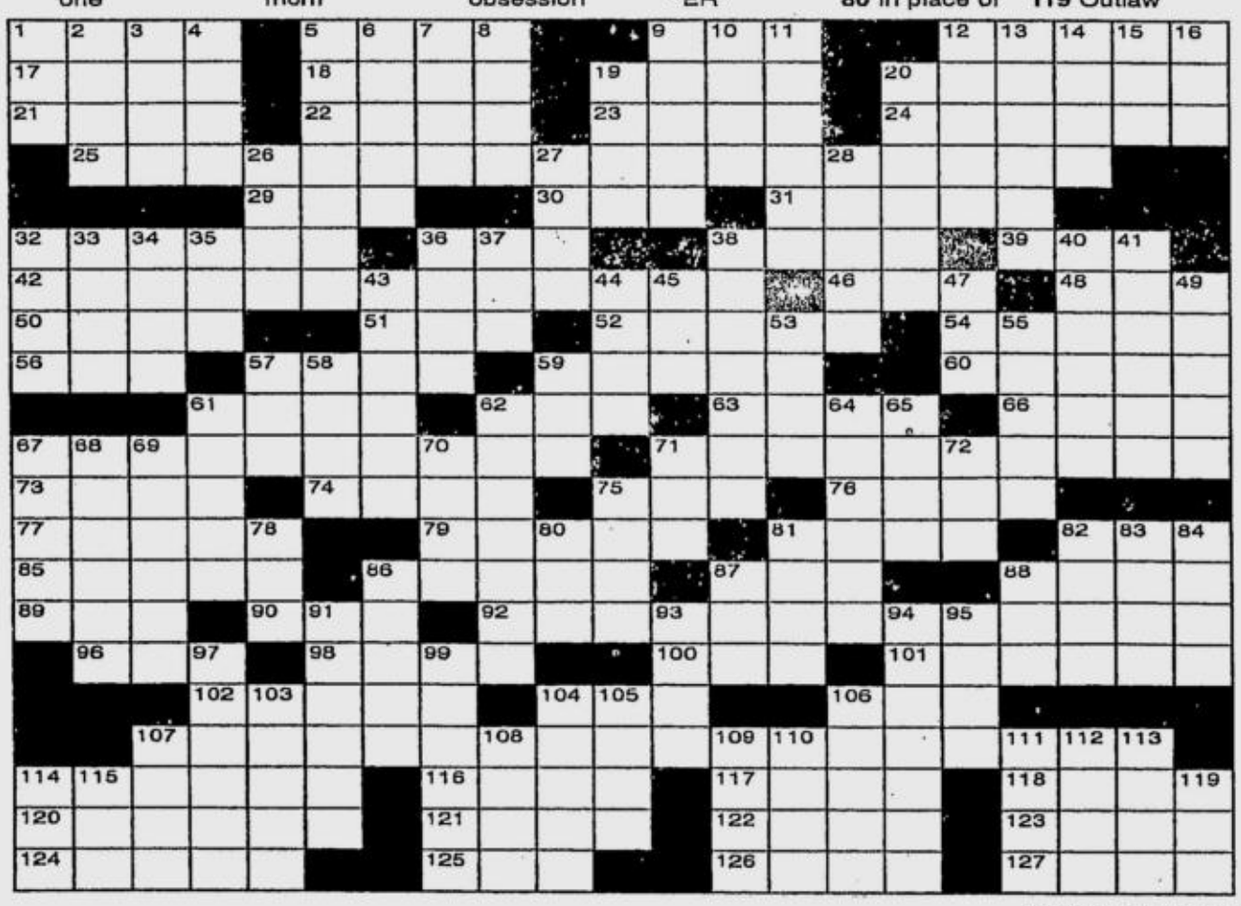
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

ANIMAL GROUPS

ACROSS
1 Rover's remark
5 Pleat
9 Plead
12 Wooden pin
17 Baseball's Vizquel
18 Portrait painter John
19 Pakistani language
20 Flaunt
21 Small hawk
22 Descartes or Levesque
23 Trusting sort
24 Loath
25 "I Think I Love You" group
29 Khan opener?
30 Figs.
31 Fosters a felon
32 Avoid an accident
36 Poetic contraction
38 Way off base?
39 Pixie
42 "Joy to the World" group
46 Swimmer Thorpe
48 Supper scrap
50 Meat cut
51 Fix a fight
52 Mercury, for one
54 Dwight's competition
56 Acorn, eventually
57 Enthusiasts
59 Trite
60 "— Break" ('91 film)
61 Director Kazan
62 Sister
63 Amontillado container
66 Yen
67 "Happy Together" group
71 "Here I Go Again" group
73 Actress Lillian
74 Line of clothing?
75 "The Simpsons" bartender
76 "The Avengers" star
77 Wan
79 "Moll Flanders" author
81 Sour
82 Toody or Muldoon
85 Musty
86 "Iron Mike"
87 Onassis' nickname
88 Hermes' mom
89 Russell or Wahl
90 WWII area
92 "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida" group
96 Rocker Claypool
98 They may be split
100 Shoe width
101 Evaluate
102 Sweatshirt size
104 Botanist Gray
106 "Birds — feather . . ."
107 "For What It's Worth" group
114 Imam's subject
116 Skeleton part
117 Cordelia or Edith Bunker
118 Sink or swim?
120 Bundle
121 Valley
122 "— Around" ('64 hit)
123 Notion
124 Cabinet wood
125 Canal zone?
126 Word with biscuit or jerk
127 Suburban obsession

DOWN
1 Hunan pan
2 Skip
3 Inauguration Day event
4 Liberate
5 Scrounged around
6 Beethoven wrote one
7 Navel store?
8 Mailer's "The — Park"
9 Betters oneself, in a way
10 Falco of "The Sopranos"
11 Loud laugh
12 Cargo crane
13 Threat words
14 Guarded
15 Mag. bigwigs
16 Golfer Trevino
19 Reverse
20 Richardson novel
26 Macadamize
27 Cross inscription
28 Extremely hot
32 Normandy site
33 "Hold your horses!"
34 Palladino of "ER"
35 Stimpy's pal
36 Protection
37 Chang's sib
38 Lawyer's case?
40 '62 Kubrick film
41 Composer Cesar
43 Rococo
44 Fed
45 Party animal?
47 Doze
49 Church offering
53 Jai —
55 "Nothing —!"
57 Winter malady
58 Pretension
59 Kramden's vehicle
61 One of the Barrymores
62 Downfall
64 Channel
65 Actor Dullea
67 Country singer Diana
68 Inn
69 Petroleum component
70 Chatterley or Windermere
71 "— is me!"
72 Bilko's rank: abbr.
75 Non-stereo
78 Born
80 In place of
81 Real
82 Java joint
83 Art medium
84 Actress Amanda
86 Friendly Islands
87 Novelist Kobo
88 "— Doubtfire" ('93 film)
91 Bass-baritone Bryn
93 Imminent
94 Lustrous fabric
95 Morales of "La Bamba"
97 Channel
99 Genesis disaster
103 Out to get
104 Ed of "Rosie O'Neill"
105 Extend across
106 Inspected too closely?
107 Tweeter
108 — podrida
109 Spring flower
110 Inoperative
111 Depraved
112 A swan was her swain
113 Sketched
114 Hydrotherapy site
115 Porter or Prince
119 Outlaw



ANSWER ON PAGE B3

Japanese cuisine served US fast-food style in RP

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

CALL it a "new species" of fast food—traditional Japanese cuisine served US fast-food style—and it's here in the Philippines.

Yoshinoya, a brand name that has been around for over 100 years, opened on Wednesday its first store in the Philippines—its 997th in the world—at the SM Southmall in Las Piñas.

Yoshinoya brings with it the concept of a store serving unique Japanese dishes in the familiar environment of a fast food.

Yoshinoya is known in Japan and the United States for its "*gyudon*," or bowl beef, thin juicy slices of beef simmered with fresh onions in a special sauce of herbs and spices, heaped on a bed of rice.

Company history

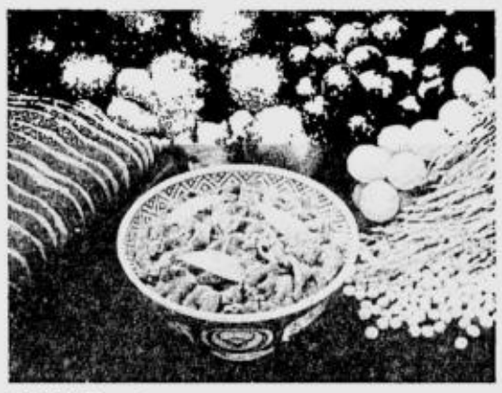
The brand name first appeared in 1899 with a restaurant that opened at the Nihombashi fish market in Chuo-ku, Tokyo.

In 1958, Yoshinoya Co. Ltd. was founded with an initial capital of a million yen. Fifteen years later, it opened its first franchise outlet in Odawara at the Kanagawa Prefecture, and in 1977 gained a foothold in the United States with the incorporation of Yoshinoya West Inc.

In 1983, the Saison Group pumped around 500 million yen into Yoshinoya, giving the company a fresh start.

In 1988, the company changed its name to Yoshinoya D&C Co. following a buy-in by D&C Inc., operator of the Dunkin Donuts chain.

Yoshinoya reached a milestone in 1996 when it opened its 500th outlet. It currently has 836 outlets in Japan, 85 in the United States and 82 in Southeast Asia.



BEEF Bowl

Yoshinoya in RP

The Philippines is the company's latest market.

Yoshinoya D&C president Shuji Abe said the Philippines had been his company's "ambition for many years."

He said doing business in Metro Manila, at a time when the economy was in a slump, "is very challenging, we are confident we will prevail."

"The Philippines is an excellent place to open a Yoshinoya restaurant, and we are happy to bring and share with Filipinos the Yoshinoya heritage of good taste, fast service and reasonable price," he said.

Yoshinoya Century Pacific, a joint venture put up by the Century Pacific Group, a local firm, which owns Century Tuna, Yoshinoya D&C, and Mitsui & Co. Ltd., is operating Yoshinoya's Southmall restaurant.

"We assure Filipinos that they will enjoy the same top-quality products and service that Yoshinoya fans enjoy worldwide," Yoshinoya Century Pacific vice president Raymond Tan said.

"Yoshinoya offers a tasty, healthy and nutritious alternative to the usual fast-food fare," he said. "At Yoshinoya, every meal is cooked-to-order to guarantee that food is served hot and fresh all the time."

Tan said Yoshinoya Century Pacific was aiming to put up at least five more branches this year. The company already has another store ready to be launched in Makati.

Apart from its beef bowl, Yoshinoya also has in its menu teriyaki chicken bowls—tender, golden-brown slices of chicken topped with Yoshinoya's exclusive teriyaki sauce and a variety of vegetables over a bed of rice—and a "combo" bowl of beef and chicken.

Side dishes include "kimchi" and native desserts like "ube sago" and "halo-halo cocktail," while beverages include Yoshinoya's specially formulated green iced tea.

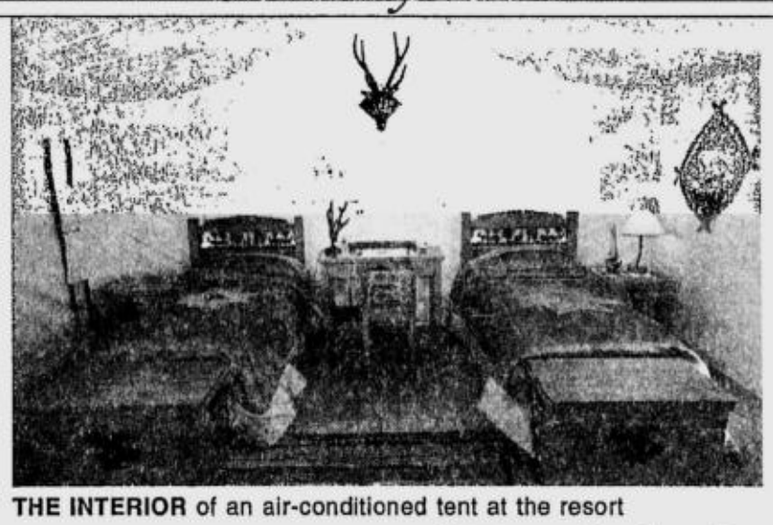
YOSHINOYA's Chicken Bowl

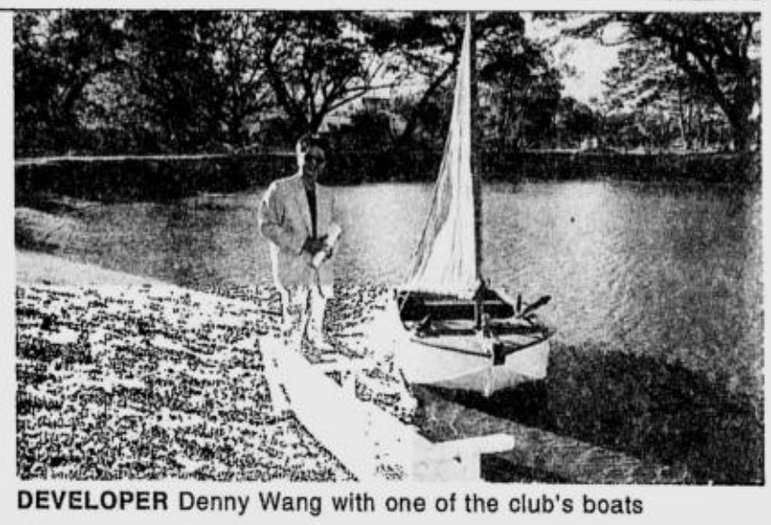
Fast and cheap

With its new store, Yoshinoya has given Filipino consumers a wider choice, an opportunity to enjoy dishes normally served in upscale Japanese restaurants in an approachable fast-food setting.

This means food that is served fast and cheap. At Yoshinoya, meals can be had for as low as P59 each. Add P15 and the customer can get a miso soup—rich, savory soy bean base soup with green onions, seaweed and soy bean cakes.

THE CLEARWATER Country Club is built around a huge lake.


THE INTERIOR of an air-conditioned tent at the resort


DEVELOPER Denny Wang with one of the club's boats

HK group sets up ₱400-M hangout

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

IN HIS many travels to Manila, Denny Wang, a Hong Kong-based businessman, would always look for a "leisure place to hang out in and do nothing."

Unfortunately for him but perhaps fortunately for the country, he could never find one. So he decided to put up one. At least that is his vision for the Clearwater Country Club, a P400-million resort being put up at the Clark Special Economic Zone, where "everyone can be lazy."

Wang is a director and part owner of the Yats International Ltd., a $150-million firm engaged primarily in the construction of 30 to 40-story condominiums in Hong Kong.

He says the group has ventures in Taiwan, Thailand, and Malaysia but adds that they do not have known partners nor known businesses.

Wang says he decided to invest in the Philippines' leisure and tourism because "a financial center is out of the question; when you think of industrial, other countries come to mind. The real treasure of the Philippines is its people."

He admits that it is not easy to do business in the Philippines because of its bureaucracy. Yet, he pushed through with the project.

The 49-year-old Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate points out that the country's natural resources can be found somewhere else "but you can't change the people."

Wang says the key to getting a tourist to stay long in a place or country lies in the people he deals with.

He continues that "the core of the strategy in the Philippines should be how to make tourists stay longer. It is not about the activities, it is not about how high the mountains are, it's now about how big the lake is, it's how you get along with the people."

The concept of Clearwater is "a country club built around the concept of a fresh water lake," located in Clark's main tourism zone.

Capitalizing on the fact that Clark was a former US military base, Clearwater's marketing kits starts with the line: "If the Americans find out about this place . . . they may want to take it back."

The concept is actually patterned after a resort in the East Coast in the United States. It is selling itself as a leisure spot near Manila where one can just get up and go without much planning.

Its main attraction will be a 3-hectare man-made lake that will be divided into five swim spots—the Family Cove, a 3,000-square-meter swim area at the doorstep of the living areas; the Discovery Cove, a 1,200 sq.m. swim area with a 50-meter lakeshore frontage of golden sand; the Fund Pool, a 1,000 sq.m. play pool; the Friendship pool, a place to meet friends; and the Wild Lagoon, an 8,500 sq.m. water play area for the adventurous.

Construction of the club began last September and there will be a soft opening in April with limited activities and no accommodations yet. (Officials said they have tied up with some of the hotels in Clark to give preferential rates for the initial visitors.)

But Wang promises that "the place will be charming by the middle of this year."

A local firm, YI Leisure (Clark) Inc. was set up for the project. YI officials admit many had discouraged the group from pursuing the project considering current market conditions.

The spate of kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf in known tourist destinations in the South and the prevalence of crime in Metro Manila have caused many foreigners to cancel trips to the Philippines.

Japan even placed the country under a certain danger level wherein any Japanese traveling to the Philippines may not get any form of insurance.

But the group decided to go on based on gut feel.

Wang boasts the project is fully funded and purely by foreign money.

"We put money in escrow. Everything is in a piggy bank. This is so the project can proceed without fear. When my people need money they just go to the bank and fill out a withdrawal slip," he says.

Although some pundits will note that this does not make very good business sense to fund a project purely on equity, as this will mean higher risks and lower returns, Wang says this is proof of their belief in the project.

He wants Yats to be a debt-free company forever. "People are wary of highly leveraged companies. They are more of a coward."

He points out rightly that many projects fail because "they were never properly funded."

Yats has started selling club shares but on a per invitation basis. They are initially targeting 1,000 members with a maximum of 2,000.

The introductory offer of the shares is P275,000 each. Its regular price is P350,000. If the group sells 1,000 shares at P350,000, they will be able to raise P350 million, almost enough to cover the project cost.

If they achieve 2,000, they will raise P700 million.

Wang says he expects to get his return on investment within two years but claims "these will be ploughed back" into the country.

He says they are eyeing other projects in the northern part of the country.

His initial project was the Yats International Wine Club, a fine dining restaurant inside Mimosa open to members and walk-ins.

Despite the dismal economic mood prevailing in the country, Wang is confident that the economy will be moving forward.

And the Hong Kong born engineer who had the option to stay and work in the US in the '70s but opted to go back to the former British colony, expects to be there when the government and finally tourists realize what a great destination the Philippines is.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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BSP chief started out . . .

(From page B1)

Recalling how he had spent almost two years as a credit investigator, the BSP governor could not help but chuckle.

"*Masaya maging credit investigator.* What happens is that your employer would give you a list of credit applicants or those renewing their credit lines and you have to check on these names with other banks," he explains.

Although born to a comfortable family, the governor prides himself with being street-smart.

Together with five colleagues in other banks, Buenaventura formed what he calls a "clearing house." Again, to reporters, this would mean an arrangement like a cartel.

Buenaventura recalls how he and four other credit investigators from four different banks would meet in the morning at Botica Boie, a drugstore cum soda fountain owned by the Araneta family, to swap the names assigned to them by their respective bosses.

By lunchtime, the five would meet again to swap the results on their findings covering Security Bank, Manufacturers Bank, Philippine Bank of Communications, Prudential Bank and Philippine Banking.

"The clearing house made our job so much easier because instead of spending the entire morning going to each of these banks like we used to do, we save on time and energy," he says.

Their job was essentially to approach the credit manager of a bank and check the credit standing of a particular person or a company and also to verify whether the information relayed to them regarding a loan was correct including the address, collateral, repayment schedule, among others, he notes.

"*Pagdating ng hapon,* we type the results of our findings. *Pag malakas ka sa mga* secretary *sa* office, *puwede mo sila bolahin* to type your work *para makapag*-date *ka na,*" says the governor.

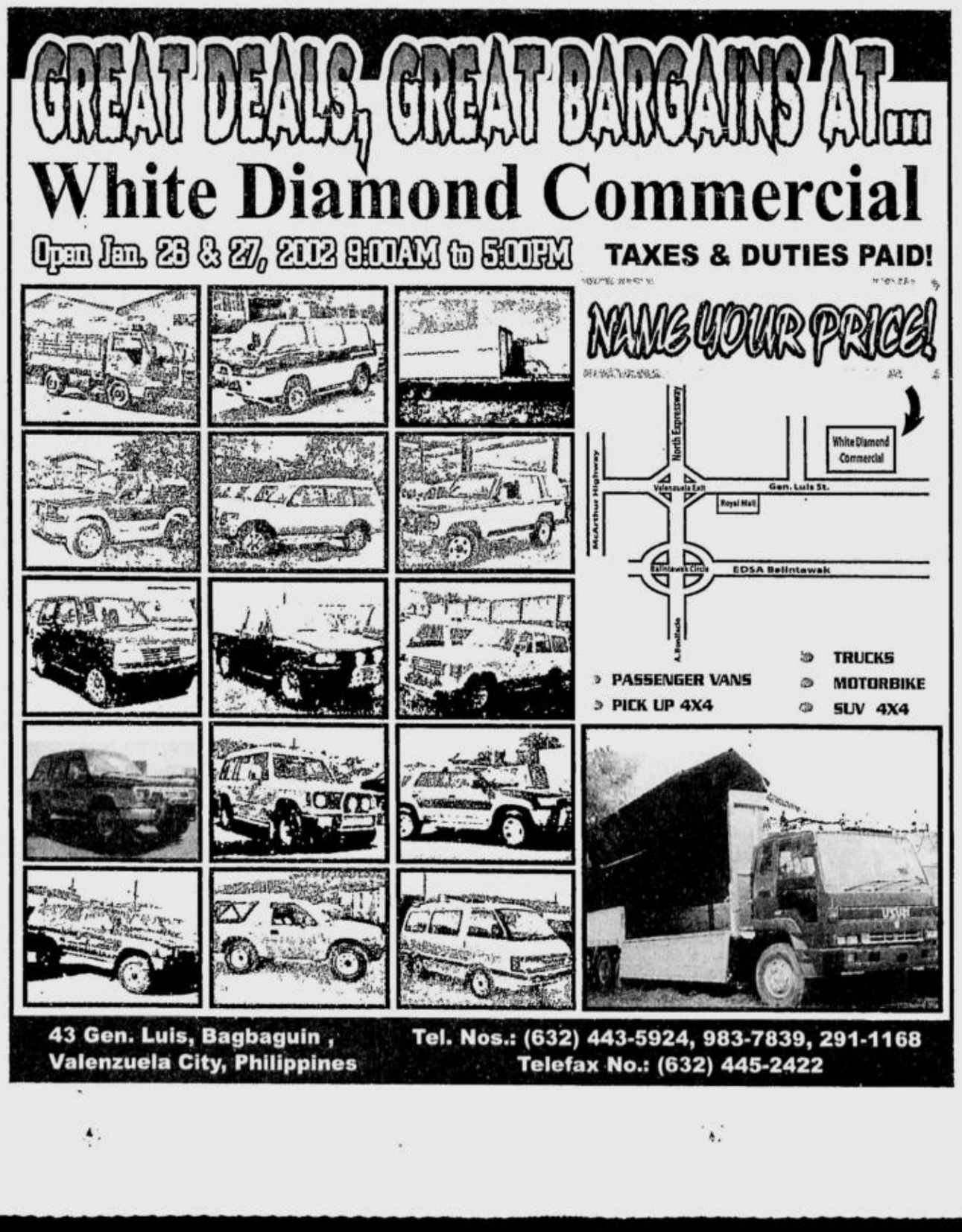
His first job earned him a salary of P120 a month, according to Buenaventura. This meant he had P6 a day and this was just enough to pay for parking, gasoline, meals and dates to the movies and the soda parlors.

Buenaventura's almost two-year stint as credit investigator ended when he went to the United States to take his MBA at the Stern Graduate School of Business.

When he came back, it was already to work for Citibank as an executive development officer and his batchmates included Xavier Loinaz, president of Bank of the Philippine Islands; William Go, former president and now chair of Chinatrust Bank; and Monetary Board member Teodoro Montecillo.

They were the trainees of class 65 at Citibank, recalls the governor.

Buenaventura knew he would build a career in financial services although his mother wanted him to be a doctor. "If I had become a doctor, I don't think I would have made it because I would faint from the sight of blood. *Susmaryosep!*" he says jokingly.



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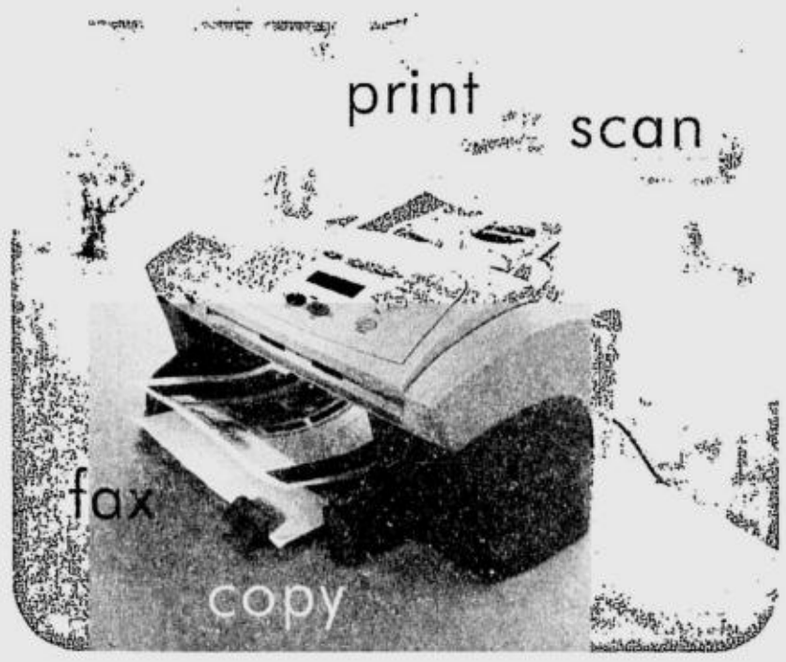

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Registration will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. Participants are requested to bring proof of qualifications (Resume with 2x2 colored picture, authenticated/photocopies of the following: PRC ID, Board Certificate, Board Rating, Transcript of Records, Diploma, Recommendation Letter(s) and Employment Certificates). Only Registered Participants will be allowed to attend the Orientation.

VENUE : TO BE ADVISED UPON REGISTRATION
DATES & TIME : TO BE ADVISED UPON REGISTRATION
Pls. contact the following persons for registration :
Cebu – (0918-919-7129 - Ms. Bengie Sarmiento)
Davao – (0918-919-7130 – Ms. Mariesan Canlas)
Cagayan – (0919-207-3580 – Ms. Raine Roldan)
Zamboanga – (0917-930-6807 Ms. Edith Corpuz)

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MANILA
EDSA Shangrila Hotel, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila
February 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13, 2002

You may contact or send your resumé to corporate office:

Alliance International/Med-Employ
G/F Cebu Plaza Hotel
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City 6000 Philippines
Tel. Nos. 032-234-2749; 032-231-1231 loc. 5806
Cellphone Nos.: (Fara) 0919-2983-961; (Anjuli) 0919-5041580; (Mary Ann) 0918-5587539

care

CARE International, one of the world's best-known NGOs, works in 60 countries to provide development and relief assistance to the poor.

CARE Philippines, an international non-government organization invites job applications from individuals qualified for the positions of:

COORDINATOR --- AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES (ANR) SECTOR

The key job objective of the position is to ensure the quality, growth, stability and continuing sustainability of the ANR Sector by providing strategic leadership and management to the entire sector. He/She will be responsible for project development, monitoring of project quality, technical support to projects, identification of alternative fund-sources, including oversight of program budget and financial status of projects, and external relations to partners and donors.

Qualifications:

- At least 7 years of proven track record in the field of ANR; 4 years of which must be in a managerial capacity.
- Graduate of Forestry, Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries with Master's Degree or higher in a job-related discipline.
- Experience in managing and coordinating the implementation of ANR projects.
- Experience in developing ANR proposals for donor funding.
- Excellent analytical and English language writing skills.
- Competent, self-motivated, hardworking and results-oriented.
- Proficient in computer applications (MSWord, Excel, PowerPoint).

CONSULTANT --- AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES (ANR) SECTOR

Qualifications:

- At least 5 years of proven track record as technical consultant for the ANR sector.
- Graduate of Forestry, Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries with Master's Degree or higher in a job-related discipline.
- Experience in designing ANR proposals for donor funding.
- Experience in implementing, monitoring and evaluating ANR projects.

CARE offers a stimulating work environment and competitive compensation package and benefits, including personal and career development. Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé not later than 30 January 2002 to David Neff at CARE Philippines, email: carephil@care.org.ph or Fax: 551-2631.

We thank applicants, but only candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

care

CARE International, one of the world's best-known NGOs, works in 60 countries to provide development and relief assistance to the poor.

CARE Philippines, an international non-government organization implementing microfinance and enterprise development projects under its Small Economic Activity Development (SEAD) Program needs a highly qualified individual for the position of:

COORDINATOR --- SEAD SECTOR COORDINATOR (MICROFINANCE)

The key job objective of the position is to ensure the quality, growth, stability and continuing sustainability of the SEAD Program by providing strategic leadership and management to the entire sector. He/She will be responsible for project development, monitoring of project quality, technical support to projects, identification of alternative fund-sources, including oversight of program budget and financial status of projects, and external relations to partners and donors. In addition, he/she will be responsible for transforming the sector into a locally registered microfinance institution.

Qualifications:

- At least 7 years of proven track record in the field of microfinance both in wholesale and retail lending, business development and strengthening of microfinance institutions, 4 years of which must be in a managerial capacity.
- Masters Degree in Business Administration, Development, Banking, Economics or other related fields.
- Experience in preparing proposals for donor funding.
- Good analytical and writing skills.
- Competent, self-motivated, hardworking and results-oriented.
- Proficient knowledge in Computer applications (MSWord, Excel, Powerpoint).

CARE offers a stimulating work environment and competitive compensation package and benefits, including personal and career development. Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resume not later than January 30, 2002, to: Tess F. Bayombong at CARE Philippines, email: carephil@care.org.ph or Fax: 551-2631.

We thank applicants, but only candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

JOB OPENING

Club Management Corporation with office address at Sta. Elena Golf Club, Bo. Malitlit, Sta. Rosa, Laguna urgently needs qualified applicants for the following position:

COOK II (2)

- ☑ Male, 25 to 40 years old
- ☑ With at least 3-4 years experience in food preparation
- ☑ At least college level
- ☑ Knowledgeable in Filipino, Western and Chinese cuisine
- ☑ Preferably single

To those who meet the above qualifications, please send your complete resumé with picture to:

Human Resources Department
Club Management Corporation
Bo. Malitlit, Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Or call Nellie or Teody at telephone numbers (049) 549-1277/78/93 local 121 or 153 or (02) 845-0529 Tuesdays to Saturdays (office hours).

OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF A HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION

PROCUREMENT DIRECTOR

Qualifications:
- Female, less than 45 years old
- Graduate of any Business Course
- With at least five (5) years comprehensive experience as Procurement Director in a manufacturing company.
- Knowledge in global business operations is necessary.
- Preferably can communicate effectively in English
- Skills in business negotiation is important.

Requirements:
Updated resumé with recent photo, Diploma/Transcript of Records, Birth Certificate and Employment Certificate.
Interested applicants may submit all their requirements at:
WISTRON INFOCOMM (Philippines), CORP.
#4 Rizal Hi-way cor. Aim High Avenue, SBIP, Phase I, Subic Bay Freeport Zone or
c/o LABOR CENTER, Bldg. 255 Burrynum Road, SBMA.

Accountant

Female; 25-40 years old
Accounting Graduate, pref. CPA
With at least 3-5 years experience
Detail-oriented; Computer Literate
Preferably Chinese speaking

Send resumé to:
General Manager
181 Del Mundo St., 8th Ave.,
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- ✔ Computer literate
- ✔ Excellent oral & communication skills
- ✔ 23-30 years old

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- not over 40 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course
- at least three (3) years managerial experience in retail operations

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- not over 40 years old
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- with at least three (3) years work experience in all accounting operations
- proficient in computer software applications

PERSONNEL MANAGER

- not over 40 years old
- graduate of Behavioral Science, Law, Psychology or any 4-year Management course
- with extensive experience in personnel management
- must be able to build and maintain professional relations with people in the organization

TREASURY MANAGER

- female, not over 40 years old
- graduate of Accounting or Banking & Finance
- with at least three (3) years experience in funds management or treasury functions
- familiar with banking operations and Central Bank procedures

Interested parties may apply personally from Mon. to Fri., 9am to 5pm or send their comprehensive resume with recent photo to:

The Recruitment Division Manager
400 Carlos Palanca Street, Quiapo, Manila

E-mail: Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

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- ☑ Excellent communication skills
- ☑ Not over 35 years old

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Qualifications:

- ☑ One (1) year experience related to property management and building administration
- ☑ Graduate of Mechanical, Electrical, or Civil Engineering, preferably licensed
- ☑ Excellent communication skills and computer literate
- ☑ Not over 28 years old

Submit resumé with recent 2"x 2" photo to:

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4/F Benguet Center, 12 ADB Avenue
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Department of Finance
Municipal Development Fund Office
Community-Based Resource Management Project

The CBRM Project, implemented by the MDFO-DOF as a financing facility for LGUs aimed at addressing environmental degradation and rural poverty among the upland and coastal communities, is in immediate need for a **PROJECT MANAGER** who will be responsible for:

- Managing and supervising the technical, financial and administrative operations of the Central CBRMP Office and the Regional Offices in 5, 7, 8 and 13.
- Coordinating the activities of various agencies involved in support for the implementation of LGU CBRM subprojects.
- Providing technical inputs in the development, piloting and mainstreaming of Project Guidelines, Manuals and Procedures to guide LGUs in the implementation of their subprojects.
- Coordinating with the World Bank and other oversight agencies in the conduct of performance reviews and in the submission of regular reports.

Qualifications:

- Must hold at least a Masteral Degree with educational background on Forestry, Marine Biology, Agriculture, Finance or related fields.
- With at least eight years of progressive experience and demonstrated skills in management of foreign-assisted projects.
- Relevant experience in community based natural resources management projects.
- Must possess the ability to work well with LGUs, communities, and multidisciplinary team of technical staff and experts.
- Excellent managerial and leadership ability.
- With excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Interested applicants may submit their application letters together with bio-data and complete reference information to:

The Executive Director
Municipal Development Fund Office
Podium Level, DOF Executive Tower Building,
Roxas Boulevard corner P. Ocampo Street,
Malate, Manila

Deadline for submission of application: **January 25, 2002**
Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY
INVITATION TO BID

The **NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY (NDA)**, a government-owned and controlled corporation attached to the Department of Agriculture (DA), invites interested bidders to submit sealed written tenders for the following laboratory equipment:

1 unit	Heating and Drying Oven
1 unit	Water Bath
1 unit	Safety Cabinet (Laminar Flow)
1 unit	Steam Sterilizer / Autoclave
2 units	Microbiological Incubator
1 unit	Colony Counter
1 unit	Top Loading Balance
1 unit	Hotplate with Magnetic Stirrer
2 units	Pipette Top Aspirator
1 unit	Trinocular Microscope
1 unit	Video Monitor
2 units	2-10 ml Dispenser
2 units	10-60 ml Dispenser

For purposes of clarifying issues re: specifications, terms and conditions, a **prebid conference** will be held on **January 29, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.** at the Shahani-Acosta Conference Room, NDA Building, BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Pre-Bid and Awards Committee at the above address not later than **1:30 p.m. on February 7, 2002** and shall then be publicly opened immediately thereafter. All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 3% of the bid amount in the form of cash, cashier's/manager's check or GSIS guarantee bond issued in favor of NDA. All bidders are also required to submit together with the bid documents, an authenticated copy of their business license/registration, latest audited financial statements (Balance Sheet and Income Statements), latest income tax return (original to be shown for authentication purposes) and a copy of the organization's profile.

NDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any information therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to NDA.

(Sgd.) **SALVACION M. BULATAO**
Administrator

(PDI -- Jan. 20 & 27, 2002)

AGCHEM COMPANY

A fast growing International Agrochemical Company needs bright professionals for the following positions:

FIELD MANAGER (Davao based): BS (Agri) from a reputed University with 2-3 years of supervisory experience in agro input sales. Valid 4-wheel driving license, a must.

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE (Mindanao): BS (Agri) graduate with 1-2 years experience in field promotion/sales of agro inputs. Valid 2-wheel driving license, a must.

The company offers an attractive compensation package and a significant opportunity for career growth to the right candidates. Interested applicants may please forward their resumé and other credentials including salary history within 15 days to:

BIOSTADT AGRISCIENCES INC.
307 Grace Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills
San Juan 1500, Metro Manila
Tel.#: 723-1238; 723-3482 Fax #: 723-1237
e-mail: biostadt@mozcom.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue,
Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. No. 743-8301 to 23

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Integrated Community Health Services Project, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Prequalification is issued.
2. The Department of Health intends to prequalify consulting firms for the Social Marketing sub-component of the Project. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from ADB member countries, in accordance with ADB guidelines.
3. Interested eligible firms may obtain the prequalification documents not later than 1700 hours Philippine Standard Time, on **25 January 2002** from the following address:

   Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
   Department of Health
   Building 3, San Lazaro Compound
   Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
4. Submission of Applications for Prequalification, consisting of one original and two (2) copies, must be received in sealed envelopes, either delivered by hand or by registered mail to same address above not later than **8 February 2002.**
5. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
6. Only firms and joint ventures prequalified under this procedure will be invited to submit proposals.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI - Jan 19 & 20, 2002)

TAIAN (SUBIC) ELECTRIC, INC.
DEPUTY MANAGER PRODUCTION CONTROLLER

Male, at least 35 years & above/ Preferably can speak Mandarin/ Excellent in both oral & written English communication/ With at least (3) years working experience in production operation & production quality for both in Assembly line & Injection Machine/Specialized in production procedure control/ Technically skilled & with experienced in repairing, maintenance of production/molding machines.

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume together with 2x2 pictures & other documents to Human Resource Section, Taian (Subic) Electric Inc. SBIP-I Argonaout Hiway Cor. Braveheart St., SBFZ 2222 Tel No. (047) 252-1668, 1669 Fax No. 252-1661 or thru SBMA Labor Center SBFZ 2222.

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System Integration Assistant
graduate of any four- year course preferably Mass Communication or Business Administration. With at least 4 years work experience & must be adept in office procedures and administration. Proficient in Windows/ Microsoft applications and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours. Female, 25-30 years old.

Training Officers/ Trainors
Graduate of any four- year course preferably Mass Communication, Education or any Business course. Excellent in oral and written communication. Good in Public Speaking. Highly computer literate, flexible and can handle work under pressure. Willing to be assigned assigned anywhere in Metro Manila, provincial and/ or depressed areas. Male/ Female, 21 - 30 years old.

Business Coordinators
Graduate of any business course with 3- 5 years sales and marketing experience. Profecient in oral and written communication. Computer literate, felxible and can handle work under pressure. Willing to do field works. Male/ Female, 21 - 35 years old.

Customer Relations Staff
Graduate of Mass Communication or any related course. Preferably with relevant work experience in customer service and handling customer concerns. Must be computer literate and proficient in oral and written communication. Male/ Female, 21 - 28 years old.

Executive Assistant
Female, 24- 30 years old. Graduate of any four year course. With pleasing personality and good communication skills. At least 1- 2 years related experience. Can work under pressure and long hours. Profecient in Windows- Microsoft applications.

Receptionist
Female, 21- 28 years old. Graduate of any four year business course. With good oral and written communication skills. Computer literate. Fresh graduates may apply.

ACCOUNTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Accounting Assistants/ Accounts Receivable Clerk/ Credit and Collection Clerk
Graduate of Accountancy with at least 2-3 years relevant work experience. Highly- computer literate. Can meet deadlines and work under pressure. Willing to work over-time.

Administrative Assistant
Graduate of any four year course with at least 2-3 years relevant work experience. Must be smart, assertive and organized. Can met deadlines and work under pressure. Highly computer literate with good typing skills.

Field Auditors
Male/ Female, not more than 40 years.
Graduate of BS Accountancy and must be CPA.
With at least 2 years relevant work experience

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Programmers/ Systems Analyst
Graduate of Computer Science/ Computer Engineering/ Electronics and Communications Engineering. With at least 3 years relevant work experience in the following applications- SQL Server 7 or 2000, Microsoft Access 2000 or XP Visual Basic, Internet Development, JAVA, ASP, Crystal Report Version 6, or Windows Operating System (1998), NT/ 2000 Professional); knowledge in Database Administration and Computer Programming a major plus. Must be a team player and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours. Male, not more than 27 years old.

Web Developers
Graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering. With at least 2- 3 years extensive experience in web development using Microsoft Technologies; ASP, HS, BV Script, Access SQL Server, Visual Interdev/ Ultradev. Preferably with strong knowledge in HTML and Java Script Hard coding as well as Cross-Browser Development. Must be a team player and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours. Male, not more than 27 years old.

AD & PROMOTION/ PUBLICATION

Account Manager
Graduate of Mass Communication, Communiation Arts or any related course. Preferable with relevant experience in advertising or its equivalent. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills and with pleasing personality. Female, single 22- 28 years old.

Copywriter/ Editorial Staff
Graduates of Mass Communications/ Communication Arts/ Journalism or any related course. Must be creative with excellent writing skills, detail- oriented, resourceful and computer literate. Preferably with background in business administration and with relative work experience in publication. Male/ Female, not more than 35 years old.

Advertising & Promo Assistant
Female, 25-30 years old. Graduate of Mass Communication or Communication Arts major in Advertising with related work experience. Preferably with adept knowledge in design promo strategies and lay-outs. Higly computer literate and can work long hours.

Interested applicants may apply personally or send thru mail their application letter and comprehensive vitae, with 2x2 picture and transcript of records.

RISE e-COMMERCE SYSTEMS INC.
Human Resources Department
Suite 1906 Robinsons Galleria Corporate Center
EDSA cor., Ortigas Ave., Ortigas Complex, Quezon City
Tel. nos.: (02) 687-1737, 867-1917, 687-0941

www.rise-ecommerce.com

Department of Finance
Municipal Development Fund Office

Community-Based Resource Management Project

The Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) of the Department of Finance is inviting applicants to fill in the following positions:

(1) REGIONAL COORDINATOR, Region VIII

Qualifications
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in Rural Development, Forestry, Fisheries, Economics, Environmental Science or any related fields;
- Must have at least five years of progressive supervisory and management experience;
- Must have at least five years experience in community-based NRM projects;
- Excellent communication skills (both oral and written);
- Must possess the ability to work well with government line agencies, local government units, People's Organizations, communities and multi-disciplinary team of technical staff and experts';
- Must be willing to be assigned in Region VIII (Tacloban City); must be able to speak well and understand the local dialect in the region (local residents, preferable); and
- Must be physically fit to travel and conduct periodic subproject supervision and monitoring works in CBRMP-covered municipalities in the region.

Terms of Reference
Reporting to the Project Manager, the successful candidate will have the following tasks:
1. Supervise, plan and direct day-to-day operations, management and maintenance (technical and administrative) of CBRMP Regional Office;
2. Implement and execute CBRMP policies, directives and instructions issued from the Central Office;
3. Mobilize support of partner agencies in the region (BLGF, DA, BFAR, DENR, DILG, and other agencies) to effectively assist LGUs in the implementation of their subproject;
4. Ensure effective implementation of CBRMP subprojects through closer supervision, on-site coaching, and timely response/action on implementation issues and bottlenecks; and

(2) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST, Region VIII

Qualifications
- Bachelor's degree in Community Development, Sociology, Human Ecology, Development Communication, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries or related fields;
- At least five years of professional experience in community organizing and development work in people-focused rural development projects, either by government or NGO initiated; preferably with experience of working in foreign-assisted rural development projects with environment resource management component;
- With good technical writing skills and communication skills, and computer literate;
- Must possess the ability to work well with LGUs, communities and multi-disciplinary team of technical staff and experts;
- Must be able to speak and/or understand the local dialect, preferably from Eastern Visayas; and
- Must be willing and physically fit to travel to remote coastal and upland communities, and interact with LGUs, upland farmers, fisherfolks, village leaders and people's organizations.

Terms of Reference
Reporting to CBRMP Regional Coordinator, the successful candidate will have the following tasks:
1. Ensure compliance by LGU subprojects to guidelines and procedures on the conduct of participatory processes in subproject implementation, monitoring and evaluation and planning/ re-planning;
2. Coordinate with regional line agencies, particularly with LGA-DILG, in the provision of various capability building training to implementing LGUs and people's organizations;
3. Ensure that the LGU subproject community organizing and development program is adequately staffed and the community organizers meet the minimum criteria set forth by the CBRMP;
4. Lead and coordinate the work of the Regional Community Development Unit, ensuring that adequate and timely technical assistance, including on-site coaching and mentoring, is provided to LGUs particularly in the area of community organizing and development and livelihood subprojects implementation;
5. Ensure that baseline and monitoring data of participating communities, particularly those related to the LGU community organizers, community/people's organizations profile and livelihood subproject activities are gathered and periodically updated;
6. Review, in collaboration with the Technical Assistant for Community Development, people's organizations Livelihood Management/Business Plans, LGU-Cos community organizing and development plans and reports;
7. Prepare the regional CO/CD report and periodic plan; and
8. Assist the Central CBRMO in documenting "best practices" in subproject implementation by LGUs and communities particularly in the area of community development and livelihood subproject implementation.

(3) FINANCIAL ANALYST, Region VIII

Qualifications
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in accountancy, preferably a Certified Public Accountant;
- Must have at least 3 years experience in government accounting system or any World Bank assisted projects;
- Must possess the ability to work well with government line agencies and local government units;
- Must be physically fit to travel and conduct monitoring of fund releases and disbursements in CBRMP covered municipalities in the region; and
- Must be willing to be assigned in Region VIII (Tacloban City); must be able to speak well and understand the local dialect in the region; local residents, preferable.

Terms of Reference
Reporting to the CBRMP Regional Coordinator, the successful candidate will have the following tasks:
1. Assist LGUs in the preparation of Work and Financial Plan, Financial Reports in coordination with other technical units in RCBRMO;
2. Ensure that books of accounts for CBRMP Regional Office, partner line agencies and LGU beneficiaries are maintained;
3. Follow-up liquidation reports from LGUs and line agencies and monitor books of accounts for CBRMP;
4. Facilitate the submission to CCBRMO/MDFO the request for fund releases of the LGUs and line agencies;
5. Prepare consolidated Work and Financial Plan of RCBRMO to the CCBRMO for incorporation into the CBRMP budget;
6. Review/evaluate/consolidate financial report and other supporting documents submitted by LGUs and line agencies;
7. Prepare financial reports and other monitoring forms required by CCBRMO/MDFO-DOF;
8. Assist the Central FMU in monitoring financial transactions of the LGU/beneficiary communities in the region;
9. Ensure LGU and line agency compliance to CBRMP financial guidelines and policies; and
10. Coordinate with COA on audit matters in the region.

Interested applicants may send their letter of application, resumé, transcript of records, complete reference information and 2x2 photo on or before **January 31, 2002** to:

The Project Director
Community Based Resource Management Project
c/o Municipal Development Fund Office
Podium Level, DOF Building
Roxas Blvd. corner P. Ocampo Sr. St.,
Malate, Manila

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The National Historical Institute is inviting interested parties to apply for prequalification and submit bid for the provision of security service at the following:

Location	No. of Guards
1. NHI Main Office, T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila	10 Security Guards
2. Quezon Memorial Shrine, Elliptical Road, Quezon City	3 Security Guards
3. Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine, San Juan, Metro Manila	2 Security Guards
4. Rizal Shrine, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila	2 Security Guards
5. Casa Real Shrine, Malolos, Bulacan	1 Security Guard

Interested parties are advised to present Letter of Intent and photocopy (with original) of their Certificate of Registration of Business Name on **January 21-22, 2002** at the NHI Records Section, National Historical Institute, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila. Photocopy shall be checked against the original document for authentication. Prequalification form and bid documents shall be issued on **January 24-25, 2002.**

Prequalification Statements and price proposals for the subject project shall be submitted to the NHI-BAC in two (2) sealed envelopes on **February 13-14, 2002,** not later than 4:30 PM. No eligibility statement and bid proposal shall be received after the said date and time.

Opening of bids is on **February 28, 2002** at 9:00 AM.

Prequalified agencies shall submit their respective securities in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the total contract cost at the date and time of the opening of bids.

The NHI reserves the right not to open bids at all and restart the bid process, to reject any or all prequalification and/or bids, waive any defects therein, and accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **AUGUSTO V. DE VIANA**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- Jan. 18 & 20, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Solana
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Components for which this invitation to pre-qualify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of SOLANA, CAGAYAN as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to pre-qualify contractors and if pre-qualified, to bid for the construction and completion of:

CONCRETING OF UBONG BARANGAY ROADS (2.460 KM FTMR)

Minimum Equipments required

1 unit Road Grader	-	Owned/Leased
1 unit Vibratory Compactor	-	Owned/Leased
1 unit Water Truck	-	Owned/Leased
2 units Concrete Mixer (1 bagger)	-	Owned
1 unit Concrete Screeder	-	Owned
1 unit Bar Cutter	-	Owned

3. Pre-qualification forms (Pre-C) and bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders at the **Municipal Engineering Office**, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** for each set payable to the Municipal Treasurer. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, **PBAC-ARCP**, Municipality of Solana, Cagayan not later than **January 28, 2002.**
5. The submission and opening of bids will be on **February 27, 2002** at the Conference Hall Office of the Mayor. No bids will be accepted later than 2:00 p.m. of **February 27, 2002.** The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security which could be verified from the Office of the Municipal Engineer.
6. The PBAC-ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO C. DE ASIS**
Chairman, PBAC-ARCP

(PDI - Jan 18, 19 & 20 2002)

CHILD SPONSORSHIP FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.
Affiliated with CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL
Legazpi City and Tabaco City Agency
DSWD License: YW-91

INVITATION TO QUALIFY VENDORS/SUPPLIERS

CSCD, INC., a non-profit charitable institution engaged in providing assistance to over 27,000 sponsored children, duly licensed by DSWD, invites legally established vendors to apply for accreditation to supply the following requirements for our CY2002 operations.

School Supplies (for Elementary and High School)	
Children's, Teens' and Adults' Clothes (Ready-To-Wear)	
Underwear, white socks	Handkerchiefs
School Shoes/Rubber shoes	Rubber Sandals
Toothbrush, Toothpaste	Set of Bed Sheets
Dinner Plates	Office Equipment
Plastic Tables	Office Supplies
Spoon and Fork Holder	Seedlings, Garden Tool Set
Pharmaceuticals	Nutritional Supplements
Medical and Dental Supplies and Equipment	
Construction Materials and Aggregates	

Interested parties are invited to submit the following requisites to qualify for accreditation.
1. Certified true copy of BIR Registration
2. Certified true copy of DTI/SEC Registration
3. Certified true copy of Mayor's Permit
4. Php500.00 non-refundable Accreditation Fee
5. Other requirements

Pre-qualification Application Forms can be obtained starting January 21, 2002 at the following offices: (1) CSCDI Office at St. Vincent Village Subdivision, Legazpi City, tel. nos. (052) 480-5625,480-5074, 214-3233, 820-3069 ; and, (2) CSCDI Office at Rosa St. Tabaco City, tel nos. (052) 487-5170, 830-0028, 487-5337.

(Sgd) ZALDY O. ABAINZA, Ed. D.
Agency Director

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB MARKET

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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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Message of Thanks

The Family of the late

SOFIA YBARDOLAZA CELIS

Who peacefully joined her Creator on January 7, 2002

wish to express their heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who comforted and condoled them, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and cards of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and who in countless other ways helped them in their time of bereavement.

Ofelia Paguia Grajo

1 October 1934 - 16 January 2002

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.A. after receiving the Last Sacraments

Her beloved husband **JOSE F. GRAJO**; children **JOSE** and **Cindy Chow, MA. CRISTINA, THERESA SUSAN** and **Tomas Edward Vielbig**, and **ERIC**; grandchildren **Haeleigh Alexandria Grajo** and **Jacob Ryan Vielbig**; her sister **Vilma**, and brother-in-law **Solomon Gatchalian**, and other relatives request a prayer for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at the Lithgow Funeral Homes, Cremation will take place after the 10:30 a.m. Funeral Mass at the St. Lawrence Church in North Miami Beach, Florida, on Saturday, 19 January 2002.

BEATRIZ "Atring" De DIOS vda. de FELICIANO

Born in July 29, 1919

Peacefully joined her Creator on Friday January 18, 2002 at the age of 82.

Her bereaved children **Lydia & Joe Magtoto, Roel & Pachoy, Waldo & Bing, Bernie & Lito Doria, Medi & Boybi Florentino** (†); sister **Maria de Dios**; her grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the House of Many Mansions Memorial Chapels, Pulungbulo, McArthur Highway, Angeles City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 22, 2002 at the Magalang Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the House of Many Mansions Memorial Chapels.

ILUMINADA PRUDENCIO GARCIA

of Kapitolyo, Pasig City

Peacefully joined our Creator on January 18, 2002 at the age of 78.

Her bereaved children **FERNANDO, REBECCA & GEORGE, ANGELINA**; brother **ALFREDO**; sisters **ESTRADA & LOURDES**; grandchildren **LYNNE & ED UMALI, RUBY & GIL ESTEBAN, JONJON, CATA, XAVIER, BORGY, & LYRA**; great grandchildren; relatives and friends request readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington East Memorial Chapels, C. Raymundo cor. Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be announced later.

In loving memory of
"An Officer and a Gentleman"

COL. JUSTO A. AURELLANO, PAF (RET.)

February 29, 1916 — January 20, 2000

A loving husband, best Papa, greatest Grandpa, our friend.

Holy Masses will be offered as follows:

Gregorian Mass @ 6:00 a.m. January 16 - February 15
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish @ 6:00 a.m., January 20th, Jersey Road, Project 8, Quezon City
Our Mother of Perpetual Help - National Shrine @ 6:45 a.m., Jan 20th, Baclaran, Pasay
San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish @ 6:00 a.m., January 20th Neptune Street, Congressional Road, Quezon City
Sta. Cruz Church @ 8:00 a.m., January 20th
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Holy Family Chapel @ 8:00 a.m., January 21st
GSIS Village, Project 8, Quezon City

Feming Aurellano and children request relatives and friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.
May he rest in peace.

COL. DOMINADOR M. AQUINO JR., PAF (RET.)

Peacefully joined the Lord on January 17, 2002 at the age of 77.

His loving wife **ROSE**; sister **LILIA**; children **MINIE & POLY, BEBO & CEA, MARIZA & DANNY, GAMALIEL & LIEZL, JOEY, KATHY, KARLO & PINES**, and **TITO JUN**; grandchildren **ANDREI, COCOY & KAREN, BODGIE, CHARM, JHONG, TINTIN & TINO, CHARO, EM-EM, BONG-BONG, GEOFFREY & ALYSSA, JOHNJOB & JON CARLO, KATRINA & KAMILLE, NIKKO & KARINA**; great grandchild **ANGELO**, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS, SUCAT ROAD, PARAÑAQUE CITY. On January 23 (Wednesday) at 9:00 a.m., his body will be transferred to the VILLAMOR AIR BASE CHAPEL, PASAY CITY for the 7:00 p.m. Necrological Service and Eulogy.

Interment will be on January 24 (Thursday), 2002 at the LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI, FORT BONIFACIO, MAKATI CITY, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the VAB Chapel, Pasay City.

We, the family of the late

DIOSDADO BAUTISTA BUENDIA, JR.

who joined our Creator on January 12, 2002

wish to thank all those who condoled with us in the hour of our bereavement.

His wife **LUCY**; children **LYNN & JOAMER, DINO, LANI, LEAH** and grandchild **GEANN**

His mother **ISING**; brothers **PETE, MIKE, ALEX, JOEY** and sisters **GODY, BELEN, ABET** and **ALET**

In Loving Memory

First Death Anniversary
of

PLARIDEL "NENE" A. SEVERINO

Silay City and Scarborough, Canada

Masses will be offered at:

Lady of Monserrat, San Beda Chapel, Mendiola	6:30 a.m.
St. Jude Parish Church, Laurel Street	6:30 a.m.
Silay Parish Church, Silay City	6:30 a.m.
St. Adan Catholic Church, Scarborough, Canada	7:00 a.m.

The family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his soul.
His cremated remains are now in Silay City.

LIM SIOK YEN

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on January 18, 2002 at the age of 89.

His loving wife **Sy Siu King**; children and children-in-law **Carmen L. Tsai & Tsia Tai Tsai, Lim Tian Biaw & Carmen T. Lim** and **Johnny Hao & Baby Ragas**; grandchildren **Jeffrey, Carlene, Sarah Jane, Wesley, Wendell, Melody, Claudine, Christopher**, and **Chadwick**; great grandchildren **PJ, Tricia** and **Christian**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Provident Village Chapel, Marikina City.
Interment will be announced later.

Col. ANGELITO S. ESPAÑOLA PA (Ret)

PMA Class 1963

peacefully joined his Creator on 14 January 2002 at the age of 61.

He is survived by his wife **Rosario**; children **Angelito Roel & Jennifer, Marni** and **Imee**; **Carmelo Angelo** and grandchildren **John-ro Jenace** and **Anjelik Jennifer.**

His remains lie at the St. Ignatius Church Mortuary, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on 22 January 2002 at 12 noon.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

We thank all those who miss and continue praying for four (4) years now for our Daddy,

JESUS O. REBUSTILLO

In Loving Memory

MERCEDES RELUNIA CUADRANTE

August 20, 1912 - January 20, 1990

ON HER TWELFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Her family requests relatives and friends to remember her in their prayers
The Holy Mass will offered in the following churches:

Santuario De San Jose—Greenhills	9:15 AM & 6:15 PM
Mary the Queen Parish—Greenhills	9:00 AM, 11:00 AM 12:00 NN & 7:15 PM

TORIBIA PAGKALINAWAN CARLOS

April 16, 1919 - January 18, 2002

Her daughters **Adeling** and **Doris**; sons-in-law **Godie** and **Arthur**; sisters **Charing** and **Lody**; nephews, nieces and grandchildren; request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at their residence in 79 A. Natividad Street, Ligid, Tipas, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on January 22, 2002 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery, Tipas, Taguig, Metro Manila after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
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Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
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DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manugul, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
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143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kalinaya St., Quezon City; Tels. 749-3806 to 11
79 Magallan Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577

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Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529 522-8793; (0919) 348-7131
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Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867; 714-0868
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27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
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438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
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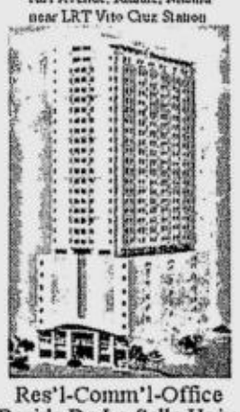

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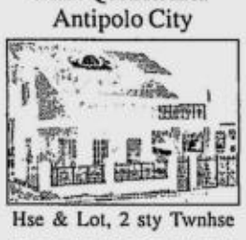

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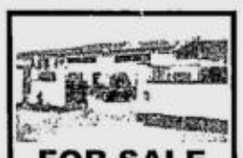

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CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8955627

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ABC 5368822/3039789

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WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

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2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

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Car Released 30M T-8990215

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FURNITURE

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Grand & Upright T7213124

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2MONTHS PEDIGREE 8160148

Chihuahua SALE 3724093
PET Product SALE 4123734

Dog Trainer 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

Golden Ret Pups 4251686

Golden Retriever Pups M American Bulldog Pups F Call/Text • Jetdog Kennel 0917-5348096

Pitbull, Lovebirds 426-0302

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

RUSH SALE

For P2.8 million only, new and unused first class pair of imported taxpaid Mitsubishi Escalators with 4050mm Rise, 1198 width, 35° slope and complete accessories, still in crates and warranty. Terms negotiable. Call 913-6382 - Alice, during office hours, Monday-Friday.

RUSH SALE

— Motorola/Lucent Equipment
— 200,000 meters Subduct Cables
— ETACS Equipment

For inquiries please call
Jo Sales or Maimai Galut
@ 5113055 • 511-3052

WANTED TO BUY

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FURNITURE / Used Clothing P.Books/ Shoes/ Bags/ Utensils/ Sewing Mach T.V.; REF; Stereo; Piano; Spkr etc. Call 373-2723 ; 373-2724

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2885

SALE EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

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Exp Machinist 9378651

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Submit resume & working documents @ any mailstation outlet T-8821834/8821826

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Urgently need 2 new grads of Physical Therapy for employment. Must apply in person after Office at 6PM from Mon-Sat. at U401 ACL Suites, 72 13th Ave., Cubao. Bring resume. Inquire at 4212893 09198842199 / 09168205894.

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INTERNAL-MED 5510188/97

OFC STAFF 7136116 Josh

Ofc Staff 9134470 Ms. FE

OFC STAFF 9134470Mariel

OFC STAFF Exp. not rqd. Call 7492993 Ms. RIO

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

RUSH SALE

For P2.8 million only, new and unused first class pair of imported taxpaid Mitsubishi Escalators with 4050mm Rise, 1198 width, 35° slope and complete accessories, still in crates and warranty. Terms negotiable. Call 913-6382 - Alice, during office hours, Monday-Friday.

RUSH SALE

— Motorola/Lucent Equipment
— 200,000 meters Subduct Cables
— ETACS Equipment

For inquiries please call
Jo Sales or Maimai Galut
@ 5113055 • 511-3052

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

OFFICE STAFFS
Trainer and Processing Staff

1. Female/ Educ. graduate/ With teaching experience
2. Female/ Any course with good computer knowledge/ Graduate or college level

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729 28 02
Contact JONATHAN

MALE/FEMALE

WANTED
SALES MANAGER & AGENCY MANAGER
Report to Cora V. Aguinaldo Suite 702 Tektite West Tower, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
We offer the highest compensation package plus additional incentive.
Bring Bio-data and ID pictures on January 21 and 22, 2002, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

MALE/FEMALE

OFC STAFF Rush9134470 Ian

PROJECT COORDINATOR/ OFFICE MNGR 8944633

Sales Clerk, Foodserver Accounting Sec. M/F Call 746-0187 • 687-4298

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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TOO OLD TO FIND A JOB?
We are looking for DYNAMIC individuals to complete our TEAM!
See us on January 21 to 25, 2002
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at
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Exchange Road corner Pearl Drive
Ortigas Centre, Pasig City

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT EFFECTIVE 15 JANUARY 2002, ETHELIND JOY L. LIM IS NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH SIMPSON'S PHILS., INC.

ANY TRANSACTION ENTERED BY HER IN BEHALF OF SIMPSON'S AFTER JANUARY 15 WILL NO LONGER BE HONORED BY THE COMPANY.

ALL TRANSACTIONS WITH SIMPSON'S PHILS SHOULD BE COURSED TO SIMPSON'S PHILS. Cebu Office at U-26 Mercedes Commercial Centre A.C. Cortes Avenue, Mandaue City. Tel. No. (032) 343-6567; Telefax (032) 343-6568, or at Simpson's Phils., Manila Office with address at U-206 Continental Plaza, 45 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Tel. Nos. 725-7186; 726-9579; Telefax No. 723-7183.

(PDI – Jan. 20, 2002)

NOTICE OF CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that a petition for the dissolution of TEL MANILA INC. has been presented to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All persons having claim against said corporation are requested to present the same at its office at Unit 3 Sunny Realty Compound, Sandoval Avenue, Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, Metro Manila.

This Announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the closure of said Corporation.

TEL MANILA INC.

(PDI - Jan. 13, 20 & 27, 2002)

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Operational, Fully-equipped
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Learn about characterization, improvisation TV culture, script analysis, blocking and acting on cam!
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Jeriel U. Mallari has filed a claim of self-adjudication in connection w/ the estate of the late Mercedes U. Mallari under affidavit of self adjudication signed by the Notary Public Vicente G. Villamil under Reg. 441, Page 89 Book 352, Series of 2002
(PDI- Jan-20, 27 & Feb- 3, 2002)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **BUENAVENTURA ALLANIGUE DIONISIO** was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc#287, Page#59, Book#88 Series of 2001 under Not. Public Felipe G. Antonio.
(PDI-Jan. 20, 27 & Feb. 3, 2002)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **CONCEPCION C. HAUTEA** had been the subject of a deed of Extra-Judicial Settlement of Estate among Heirs with Authority to Sell under Doc. No. 1, Page 1, Book No. I, Seires of 2002 in the Notarial Registry of Atty. Wendell E. Coronel of Makati City.
(PDI-Jan. 22, 27 & Feb. 3, 2002)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

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897-8425 (Telefax)

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MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370

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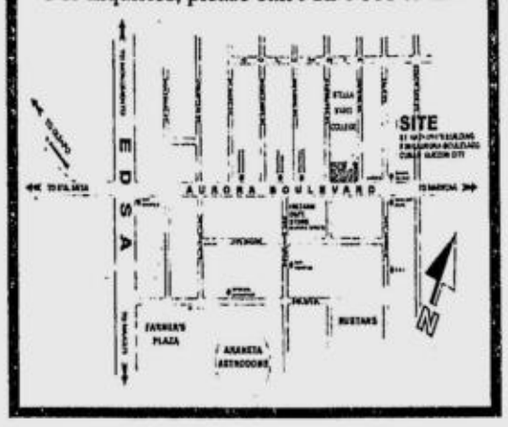

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FAST MOVING CONSUMER PRODUCTS

A DYNAMIC FILIPINO-JAPANESE JOINT VENTURE COMPANY WHICH EXCLUSIVELY IMPORTS A FAT-MOVING CONSUMER PRODUCT IS LOOKING FOR MEDIUM SIZED, FINANCIALLY STABLE DISTRIBUTORS WITH A COMPREHENSIVE DISTRIBUTION ORGANIZATION AND FACILITIES.

THE POTENTIAL DISTRIBUTOR MUST BE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN CONSUMER PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION WITH EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE SECONDARY AND TERTIARY TRADE OUTLETS.

We offer a high-quality, high-margin product on a long term exclusive distributorship arrangement.

Note: We also need Van Salesmen and Booking Salesmen. Please send resumé.

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MK-80
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Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue,
Makati City 1226

ARMED FORCES AND POLICE SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

INVITATION TO BID

AFPSLAI invites interested buyers to bid for the following properties on cash basis.

PROPERTY LOCATION	MIN BID PRICE	PROPERTY LOCATION	MIN BID PRICE
Bo. West Talaongan, Cavinti, Laguna Res'l Lot 826 sqm.	500,000.00	Bo. Tandoc, San Carlos City, Pangasinan Agri'l Lot 2993 sqm.	119,720.00
Bo. Pinaglabanan, Pila, Laguna Res'l Lot 859 sqm. w/ improvement	300,000.00	Blk. 2 Lot 2 Cp Tinio, Cabanatuan City Res'l Lot 140 sqm. w/ improvement	105,700.00
Brgy. Malabanan, Candelaria, Quezon Res'l Lot 400 sqm. w/ improvement	400,000.00	Blk 2 Lot 3 Cp Tinio, Cabanatuan City Res'l Lot 140 sqm. w/ improvement	88,000.00
Brgy. Marama, Ilagan, Isabela Res'l Lot 600 sqm. Agr'l Lot 1,387 sqm.	90,000.00	Blk 2 Lot 4 Cp Tinio, Cabanatuan City Res'l Lot 140 sqm. w/ improvement	123,200.00
San Francisco, Zaragosa, Nueva Ecija Res'l Lot 2000 sqm	490,000.00	Blk 2 Lot 5 Cp Tinio, Cabanatuan City Res'l Lot 140 sqm. w/ improvement	102,200.00
Bo. Malabago, Lamut Ifugao, Res'l Lot 19,964 sqm.	500,000.00	Blk 2 Lot 8 Cp Tinio, Cabanatuan City Res'l Lot 140 sqm. w/ improvement	102,200.00
San Fernando City, Pampanga Res'l Lot 775 sqm.	185,600.00	Blk 2 Lot 10 Cp Tinio, Cabanatuan City Res'l Lot 140 sqm. w/ improvement	102,200.00
Taguig, Metro Manila Res'l Lot 148 sqm. w/ improvement	566,310.00		

Bid forms may be secured from the **Asset Management Office, AFPSLAI**, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City or from any **AFPSLAI Branch**. Deadline for Submission of Bids is on **January 31, 2002**. For inquiries please call 911-6156 or 911-2032-33 local 2229.

ASSET MANAGEMENT OFFICE

(PDI - Jan. 13 & 20, 2002)

PETRON

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that the official receipts of **PETRON CORPORATION** bearing serial nos. 3000237045 - 3000237050 are hereby declared as lost and beyond recovery. Any transaction involving these official receipts shall not be honored by the company.

(Sgd.) **The Management of PETRON CORPORATION**

(PDI – Jan. 20, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MR. ISMAEL (Mael) MALABIGA Y FRANCISCO** of #241 RIP Mabini Street, Barihan, Malolos, Bulacan is no longer connected with SOUTH EAST STAR ENTERPRISES effective November 24, 2001. Any transaction entered thru him in behalf of the company will not be honored.

(PDI – Jan. 20, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **LIBERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION** has ceased its business relationship with **MR. FELINO LAGMAN, JR.** of Smartways Insurance Agency. Further, Official Receipts Nos. **175152** to **175156** and **166459** to **166500** are unaccounted, and therefore, any transactions covering these receipts and all others entered into in behalf of the Company will no longer be honored.

(PDI - Jan. 20, 2002)

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Happy, poignant moments at Jollibee

WHILE Jollibee serves what most will agree is the best-tasting fastfood fare in town, the well-loved burger chain does not concern itself solely in dishing out great-tasting food.

Equally important, Jollibee is also in the business of making people happy, as clearly attested by its new campaign, "Bee Happy."

Day in, day out, Jollibee serves over 1 million Filipinos who flock to its more than 400 stores all over the country. In ways small and grand, Jollibee's tasty food, cheerful service and friendly crew touch the lives of so many people who leave its stores with happy memories that will last long after that birthday party, first date or even just that simple meal a customer had when he dropped in one rainy day.

These unforgettable real life anecdotes are just a few of those countless happy moments experienced by satisfied Jollibee customers.

"It was fun, really fun!," sums up Angela Valenzuela of her baby's first birthday celebration held at Jollibee. "There were a lot of kids and everything just went smoothly."

Angela is all thumbs up on the way Jollibee organized the birthday bash. According to Angela, the store assigned a party organizer to attend to her and "she was very efficient". "I was asked what we wanted, what our preferences were. And they're very adaptable; no dos and don'ts. You'd feel very *kampante* that everything would go well."

They settled on a "Treasure Adventure" theme for the party. Angela recalls "We brought props—pirate's eye patches and pots of gold—and they basically handled everything. We were not very harassed that day so we were able to really celebrate with the kids. It was just nice!"

Mayhette Bernardo, whose son Jun-jun eats in Jollibee everyday, says the food in Jollibee really makes Jun-jun happy. "He just loves the food—spaghetti, Chickenjoy..."

"Lahat!," Jun-jun butts in.

She also finds Jollibee's service equally remarkable. "*Mababait ang mga empleyado*; they would really make you feel at home. *Talagang* you can feel the love and care!"

Paris Murray, an American who has been a Philippine resident for four years, didn't find it very hard to switch from his erstwhile favorite American burger brand to the distinctly Filipino taste and the cheerful service at Jollibee. "My wife converted me to become a Jollibee fan," he says without hesitation or guilt.

Even at times when he wanted to take his wife to a fancy restaurant, she would plead "Honey, can we eat at Jollibee *na lang*?"

Now when Paris has guests from the United States or United Kingdom, the first thing he asks them is "Have you eaten at Jollibee? And it's at Jollibee where we usually end up," he concludes.

COCOLIFE, TSPI PARTNERSHIP

Cocolife and Tulong sa Pag-Unlad Inc. Development Corp. (TSPI) forged their partnership in a Micro-Insurance program for Damayan sa Kabuhayan, a livelihood program which provides livelihood opportunities for individual and community members of TSPI. Cocolife will provide life insurance protection and medical benefits to TSPI members. Present during the recently concluded Micro-Insurance product launching were top executives of both institutions (from left) Elmo Nobleza, first vice president, group marketing division, Cocolife; Ruben de Lara, TSPI executive director; Dra. Olivia Pascual, TSPI treasurer, a TSPI member; lawyer Alfredo C. Tumacder Jr., president, Cocolife; Joycelyn Galang, assistant vice president, group marketing division, Cocolife and Amy de los Santos, TSPI director for field operations.

GILLETTE-JDH/IDS CONTRACT SIGNING

Gillette (Philippines) Inc. has appointed the IDS Logistics Stream Business Unit of JDH (Philippines) Inc. as Gillette logistics services provider effective this January. Gillette is a leading manufacturer of personal care products worldwide, while JDH/IDS is a member of the Hong Kong-based Li & Fung Distribution Group, a leading provider of supply chain services in Asia. Shown during the signing of the agreement are (seated, from left) Paulino Servado Jr., vice president-controller, Gillette Phils., Vicente Dinglasan, president and chair, JDH/IDS logistics; Alan Simpson, president, Gillette Phils.; Emmanuel Bautista, general manager, operations, JDH/IDS logistics; standing (from left) Esmeraldo Bernardo, operations manager, JDH/IDS logistics; Lynn Goco, supply chain management manager, Gillette Phils.; Isagani Dominguez, finance director, JDH/IDS logistics; Domingo Dumancas, IT director, JDH/IDS logistics; Dina Pilapil, operations director, JDH/IDS logistics.

Islands Souvenirs in Iloilo Dinagyang Festival 2002

FROM JAN. 16 to 27, Iloilo City will again reverberate with flamboyant splendor as it celebrates "Dinagyang Festival 2002". The event has been featured in Japan and Singapore's Chingay Parade and is considered to be one of the country's biggest festivals in terms of color, choreography and pageantry. This year, the festival is also celebrating its 33rd anniversary with the theme, "Santo Niño: Lead Us Toward Fullness of Communion."

Thousands of foreign and domestic visitors are expected to attend the festival as they share the thrill of the spectacle and witness the culture of the Ilonggos – their creativity and ingenuity.

Highlights of the festival include the Miss Dinagyang 2002 pageant, novena masses, exhibits featuring the various images of the Sto. Niño, a fluvial procession, dragon boat quest, kayak race, 10K marathon, and an *ati-atihan* competition.

Islands Souvenirs has been part of the Dinagyang Festival for several years. This year, their participation focuses on creating Dinagyang-themed mall visuals, which is on display at SM City Iloilo. According to Lyndon Angan, Islands Souvenirs national director for marketing, they are proud of the promotional partnership with SM City Iloilo. He says, "We had our artists design streamers, banners, posters and giant mobiles for SM City Iloilo that are befitting the theme and spirit of the Dinagyang Festival. Our goal is to enhance the look of the mall and make it a fun and enticing place for shoppers."

In keeping with the celebration, Islands Souvenirs also has an exclusive line of Dinagyang-themed items ranging from T-shirts, shorts, caps, coffee mugs and other accessories that are available this month at the Islands Souvenirs boutique at SM City Iloilo. Shoppers can also have their photo taken for free at the Islands Souvenirs photo booth whenever they purchase P300 worth of items at the Islands Souvenirs boutique.

THE ARISTOCRAT BAKESHOP NOW IN MAKATI

The Aristocrat Bakeshop recently opened its newest outlet on Jupiter corner Saturn Street in Bel-Air. Cutting the ribbon at the opening rites were Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and Nena Fernandez. Shown (from left) are Alvarez, Delia Reyes-Zaldarriaga, general manager of Aristocrat Bakeshop, Marian Reyes, OIC of Aristocrat Bakeshop Jupiter, Alex Reyes, Jr., Representative Teddy Locsin of Makati, Anna Marie Reyes-Llamado and Raymund Reyes, chief executive officer of The Aristocrat Restaurant. Corazon Abalos was also a principal sponsor while monsignor Nico Bautista officiated at the mass and blessing. On its 25th year, the bakeshop is a fusion of tradition and innovation offering a delicious selection of cakes, pastries and baked products. The airy, cheerful, brightly painted interiors of the Aristocrat Bakeshop has attracted hordes of cake afficionados in Makati sampling its tasty treats.

ICOM reelects Adformatix's Garcia

ROLLINSVILLE, Colorado—Willie Garcia, chair, Adformatix, one of the leading independent advertising agencies in the Philippines, has been reelected to the board of ICOM (the International Communications Agency Network) based here. Garcia is one of two members selected to represent the Asia/Pacific region. He will continue to serve as regional director, while David Walker, a principal of Walkers Advertising, Auckland, New Zealand, will represent the region as director-at-large. The other six directors represent three other global geographic regions. Garcia also has served as the network's president since last spring. Board members are elected each year to lead the $3-billion independent network. Garcia's agency, which he founded in 1969, handles both local and international clients and brands. They include Promil, Advil, Centrum, Robitussin, UMC-Nissan, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Nivea, Fedders, Sony, Hershey's, Wella and Yokohama. ICOM offers clients an alternative to the huge and increasingly similar agency groups.

With 75 members in 50 countries, the network is the most balanced of international independent agency networks offering a full range of integrated marketing and media communications services. ICOM was founded in 1950 as the National Federation of Advertising Agencies and became the International Federation of Advetising Agencies Inc. in 1980. In 1998, it was renamed to reflect its expanded range of capabilities.

ACR SUPPLIES BEDS FOR VIVERE

ACR Furniture Manufacturing Corp., manufacturer and fabricator of Shelltex orthopedic brand beds, recently signed an agreement with First Federated Properties Inc., owner of Vivere, at the Richville Regency Suites to supply its bed requirement for the hotel's 230 guest rooms. At the signing ceremony are (from left) Benjamin L. Dionisio, ACR executive vice president; Antonio V. Tan, Jr., ACR president; Elvi S. Berin, Vivere general manager, and architect Alan Tarala, Vivere vice president for architecture and construction.

NEW WATER PURIFIER ENDORSED

Introducing SkyFresh TWE-1235 Reverse Osmosis 5 Stage Water Purification System. This is the latest innovation in water installation wherein water will go through a chlorination and treatment process that destroys all animal and microbial life. Miss Earth candidates from Argentina and Singapore are shown beside the SkyFresh TWE-1235. More information from SkyFresh Water can be obtained at 637-8899.

Federal Hardware opens in Taytay

AFTER the success of its flagship branch along Chino Roces Avenue, Federal Hardware opens its second store along Manila East Road, Kaytikling, Taytay, Rizal on Jan. 21, Monday. The new branch is located at the crossroads to Antipolo, Angono and Binangonan in Rizal. "Residents of these localities now have easy access to all their building and home improvement needs," says Federal Hardware general manager Paquito Ngo. The new branch offers the same US-styled one-stop hardware shopping concept that has made Federal Hardware the favorite of builders and do-it-yourself enthusiasts. Shoppers can also enjoy ample free parking at Federal Hardware-Taytay, open Mondays through Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 665-3442 and 284-2206.

Imiquimod symposium

3M PHARMACEUTICALS will sponsor a dinner symposium for dermatologists and health professionals on Jan. 22 at the New World Hotel in Makati City. Titled "Imiquimod: Key to Unlocking the Immune System," the symposium will discuss and assess the potential uses of Aldara (Imiquimod) cream apart and beyond the treatment of genital warts. Guest speaker is Dr. Stephen Peter Shumack, head of the dermatology department and VMO of St. George Hospital, University of New South Wales. Other panelists include Dr. Georgina Pastorfide, clinical associate professor of UP-PGH; Dr. Marcellano Cruz, head of the HIV action team of the East Avenue Hospital, and Dr. Evangeline Handog, president of the Philippine Society of Cutaneous Medicine.

BITS Clips

Finex seminar on pensions

THE FINANCIAL Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) invites the public to a seminar on "Future Directions for the Philippine Pension System" to be held on Jan. 23, Wednesday, 2 to 5:30 p.m. at the Manila A&B Rooms of the Shangri-la Hotel Manila, Ayala and Makati Avenues, Makati City. Invited speakers are Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho, SSS president and CEO Corazon S. dela Paz, GSIS EVP and COO Reynaldo P. Palmiery, World Bank chief economist Lloyd Mckay, and Romy L. Bernardo, managing director of Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates Inc. For inquiries, call the Finex secretariat (Analyn Viloria) at 811-4184, 811-4186 and 811-4052 or e-mail avviloria@finex.org.ph.

SIF-Asean accepting applications

THE SINGAPORE Embassy is inviting applications for the Singapore International Foundation-Asean Visiting Student Fellowship 2002. The SIF-Asean Visiting Student Fellows will spend one semester at the National University of Singapore, the Nanyang Technological University or the Singapore Management University. The student fellows will get to experience campus life with their Singaporean and Asean counterparts. The Fellowship will last 18 weeks from July to December. Applications are open to Filipino nationals who are full-time university undergraduates and above 18 years old. The Fellowship provides return airfare, tuition, accommodation and stipend. The deadline for submission of applications is on Jan. 31. For application forms and more information, call the Singapore Embassy at 751-2345 loc. 305 and look for Pong. Application forms can also be downloaded at www.sif.org.sg.

NREA sets credits seminar

THE NATIONAL Real Estate Association (NREA) is conducting a series of Continuing Education Program (CEP) seminars for three consecutive Saturdays (starting Jan. 12), from 1 to 7 p.m. at Kowloon House, Matalino Street (near Sulo Hotel), Quezon City to provide real estate brokers with the 16-hour CEP credits required in the renewal of their license this year. The seminar is also open to real estate developers, property owners and managers. For particulars call the NREA Secretariat at 913-4463 or 912-3492.

A REPEAT FOR ECI-STA. ROSA

For two consecutive years, El Cielito Inn-Sta. Rosa bagged 'The Cleanest Hotel Award' given by the provincial government of Laguna and the Laguna Tourism Council. The awarding ceremony took place recently at the Faith Training Center, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Session Hall, Provincial Capitol Compound, Sta. Cruz, Laguna. The awarding was led by Nilcar Donato (left), executive director of the Laguna Tourism Council, Vincent Soriano, chair, Provincial Tourism Council and Governor Teresita Lazaro. Also shown is Manny Imperial (far right), hotel manager of El Cielito Inn-Sta. Rosa. For inquiries on El Cielito Inn, call Richard Faulkerson, marketing manager at (049) 541-2980/247-0473.

MEDICAL MISSION, LAUNCH

A medical mission was launched by Fil-Tech Development Foundation Inc. through the leadership of its president Marietta R. Yoshida recently at Barangays 50 and 52, Zone 4, Tondo, Manila. Through the coordination of Representative Ernesto 'Banzai' Nieva, Mayor Lito Atienza, chair Totoy Echalor, chair Jerry Caballes and the Dagupan Gays Association, in collaboration with Dr. Daniel T. Ng, Dr. Linda Tamesis, FEU Movers, Asian Medical Students Association-FEU Chapter, headed by Alfonso Shoei Yoshida, various illnessed had been cured and the mission was a great success. Marietta Yoshida and the staff of Fil-Tech Development Foundation Inc. extend their gratitude to those that contributed to the success of the mission: United Laboratories Inc., Medichem Pharmaceutical Inc., Pascual Laboratories Inc., Boie-Takeda Chem. Inc., Solvay Pharma Inc. Philippines, Nestle Phils. Inc., Phil. Schering Plough Corp., Europharma Inc. Roche (Phils.) Inc. Phil. Merk Inc., Commonwealth Foods Inc., Filadams Inc., JPVA, and to the local officials of Tondo.

We belonged to the Young Officer's Union (Y.O.U.)

We led the motivation, training, organization and mobilization of the armed forces during the December 1989 military rebellion.

We were the officers and men of the First Scount Ranger Regiment and other units of the Philippine Army, the Philippine Marines, the Philippine Air Force, the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Consultancy who delivered the warm bodies then.

We belonged to the Young Officer's Union (Y.O.U.) that we started after the failed August 28, 1987 military uprising.

We have decided to disclose to the public our identities at this important time, so there can be no question as to the sentiments of the organization once called the Y.O.U.

Some people who have claimed, or may still claim , to speak for the Y.O.U. are more "rabble rousers" or "political operators". In no way do they represent the Y.O.U. nor can they claim to be expressing the views of the Y.O.U. Let it be known to everyone that we have not mandated anyone to speak for us nor represent the organization. People who cont inue to perpetuate the specter of Y.O.U. have only less than noble intentions for this hoax.

We dissolved the union as an organization after the signing of the formal peace agreement between the government and the military rebels in October 1995. Many of us rejoined and were reintegrated into the mainstream military and police establishments. Some of us became civilians and joined the private sector.

Since then, we have renounced violence and coup d'etats as modes for political change. More than our previous belief that extra-constitutional means can only be restorted to when extra-measures are needed to protect and save the people, the state and the republic in extra-ordinary crises and times when moderate and peaceful means become futile, and more than our present commitment to the requirements of the 1995 peace accord, we firmly committed ourselves to the observance and strengthening of democratic institutions, the rule of law and the constitution - sans violence and force.

We are now occupying middle-level positions in the AFP and in the PNP. We are now majors and colonels and we have proven and are still proving ourselves worthy of becoming true and dedicataed officers and gentlemen in the military and police establishments which, together with the government, gave us a second chance in our military and police professions. We are no longer the "young officers" of yesteryears.

Yet our request for reforms and social change still burn deep in our hearts, and we still work for it, albeit within the chain of command and in accordance with our capabilities and responsibilities. For we firmly believe that the best way for us to serve the people and the country is to excel in the assignments and duties given us by our Commander-in-Chief and the military/police leaderships. This is our contribution to the call for national unity - unity of effort and hard work towards a united action on nation building so we may be prepared to face the challenges of the new millennium. This is our interpretation of the truest sense of nationhood.

We are not plotting against the present administration. We are not part of any destabilization nor of any coup plot, rebellion or mutiny whatsoever. And we will never be.

As officers, soldiers and law enforcers, we warn plotters and destabilizers, whoever they are, that we shall fight to the death such conspiracies against the people, the const itution, the government and the state. This is our sworn duty and we shall abide by it.

We likewise admonish the media, civil society and political groups to refrain from claiming to be expressing our sentiments and aspirations. We denounce the use of the name of Y.O.U. for selfish polotical and partisan interest, for personal aggrandizement and mercenary ends.

Let this manifesto speak for us and for our former organization. Let it be known to all that former members of the Y.O.U. adhere ann commit themselves to the constitution, the Commander-in-Chief, the chain of command, and the people.

Let this manifesto put an end to all issues on the Y.O.U. Let us not resurrect the dead. Let it rest in peace and undesecrated.

Let us all rise beyond partisan politics and work together and bring forth an environment of a united nation for peace and progress for all.

We call on our fellow countrymen to support our present national leadership so it could govern unhampered in a climate of peace for the good of our nation.

LET US ALL UNITE FOR THE SAKE OF OUR PEOPLE WHOM WE HAVE ALL SWORN TO SERVE.

LTC ANGELITO BONIFACIO (ret)
Chief Security Officer
Negros Navigation

HCol Gil M Nacino (ret)
Private Sector

Lt Colonel Basilio Calimag
Transport Services
Private Sector

Lt Colonel Faustino Dantes
CDC, Tarlac
RESCOM, PA

Lt Colonel Felix Calimag
Provost Marshall
SID, PA, Tarlac
OIC, 54 IB, SID, PA

Major Gerry Amante
C, CDD, OJ9, GHQ, AFP
Camp Aguinaldo, QC

Major John Ayling
Battalion Commander

Major Rolando Bautista
OJ3, GHQ, AFP
Camp Aguinaldo, QC

Major Ricardo Nepomuceno
G4, Light Armor Brigade, PA
Camp O'Donnel, Tarlac

Major Oliver Voelino
OJ6, GHQ, AFP
Camp Aguinaldo, QC

Major Rey Acorda
OJ2, GHQ, AFP
Camp Aguinaldo, QC

Major Robert Pierre Pel
C, Procurement Office, AFPLC
Camp Aguinaldo, QC

Major Eugeno Metrio
PMA, Fort Del Pilar
Baguio City

Major Edgardo De Leon
Admin Officer, OSND
Camp Aguinaldo, QC

Major Fernando Gomez
MA-3, OSMA, DND
Camp Aguinaldo, QC

MAJ RAYMOND LIWAG PN(M)
CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER BID

LTC JOSEY AGDEPPA (RET) PA
GEN MANAGER, SECURITY AGENCY

Capt Joey Sarroza
Commercial Pilot, PAL

MAJOR JAMES B JOVEN
OJ2, GHQ, AFP
Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

MAJOR NORBERTO N LAI
OA3 HQS PHIL AIR F
VILLAMOR AIR BASE, PAS

MAJOR ROEL S. BUAN
ASSTSMOR, ISG, PA

Lt. Col. Beng Amon
Operation Center, A-3
Headquarters, Philippine Air Force
Villamor Air Base
Pasay City

Lt Col Reynato Padua
Battalion Commander
Scout Ranger Battalion
First Scout Ranger Regiment

Major Rolando Guaidrapa
Commandant
Palawan State University
NAVRESCOM
Palawan

Major Gregorio Tomas
J6, GHQ
Camp Emilio Aguinaldo

Major Ramon Tagrog
Doctrines Development
TRADOC
Philippine Army

Major Gene Mariano
Dep N-7, Civil Military Operations
Headquarters Philippine Marine Corps
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City

LTC ROBBIN C CALDO
C3, NCR RCDG, ARESCOM

SSupt Emy Bucalt
Deputy Director
Dir. for Intelligence & Investigation
Central police District

Major Cristobal Zaragoza
Assistant Group Commander
MIG 15, ISAFP

Major Conerio Del Rosario
Deputy SMA
Office of the Senior Military Assistant
Department of National Defense
Camp Emilio Aguinaldo

Major Paul Bernaya
Chief
Information Systems Office
ISAFP

Major Teodoro Llamas
Operations Officer, G-3
SOCOM

Major Napoleon Mabalot
Budget Officer
DCS for AFP Modernization
J-8, GHQ

Major Philip Manipaz (Ret)
Security Consultant
Private Sector

Major Rolando D Ailing
Chief Admin/Log
BID, PNP

ATTY FERNANDO B ALTAZAR,
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Lt.Col. Celestino Pereyra (PM)
Command General Staff College
Philippine Army
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City

Major Hernando Caraig
Military Assistant
Office of the ASPER
Department of National Defense

Major Carlito Viniuen
Operations Officer
First Scout Ranger Regiment
Special Operations Command, SOCOM

Major Francis Garangdang
Academic Group
Philippine Military Academy
Baguio City

Lt. Gregorio Panelo (Ret)
Pilot
Private Sector

Capt. Albert Yen (Ret)
Security Consultant
Cordillera Region

Major Florencio Flores (Ret)
Businessman
Private Sector

Major Abrahan Purugganan (MNSA)
President
Center for National Security Management
Metro Manila

Colonel Danilo D. Lim (GSC)
Deputy Regimental Commander
First Scout Ranger Regiment
Special Operations Command
Philippine Army

Colonel Jose Gamos (GSC)
Dep. Exec. Director for Operations
Cabinet Oversight Committee on
Internal Security, Operation Center
Quezon City

Colonel Rolando Detaballi (GSC)
Operations Officer, U-3
SOUTHCOM
Zamboanga City

Colonel Herbert Avinante (GSC)
Commanding Officer
Army Marksmanship Training Unit
Philippine Army

Colonel Cesar Dela Pena (GSC)
Philippine Marine Corps
Joint Command General Staff College
General Headquarters, AFP
Camp Emilio Aguinaldo

Colonel Juancho Sabban (GSC)
Deputy Commander
Philippines Marine Forces South
Philippine Marine Corps
Mindanao

SSupt Boogie Galingaod
PNP Provincial Director
PNP Zamboles

Lt.Col Arman Banot
Battalion Commander
5th Marine Brigade
Philippine Marine Corps
Basilan

Colonel Rhett Ellasrubin (GSC)
Deputy Brigade Commander
Philippines Marines Corps
(Medal of Valor Awardee)

Lt.Col. Exsel Soriano (GSC)
Battalion Commander
2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion, 6I
Awang, South Cotabato

Lt.Col. Fidel Legralda
Assistant Chief of Staff for Personr
Special Forces Regiment,. SOCOI
Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija

Lt.Col. Raynaldo Ordonez GSC)
Battalion Commander
10th Infantry Battalion, 1ID,PA
Basilan

Lt.Col Nestor Fiordelizu
Commanding Officer
COC, RESCOM
Bohol

SSupt. Raynaldo Rafal
PNP Provincial Director
PNP Albay

Lt.Col Allen Campyan
Department of National Defense
Camp Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City

Leovic Dioneda
Former Mayor
Sorsogon, Sorsogon

Major Edmundo Malabanjot
Task Force Cebu
Cebu

Lt.Col. Emesto Cadyog (GSC)
Battalion Commander
1st Light Armor Battalion, 7ID
Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija

Supt. Rodrino P De Gracia
Chief of Police
San Juan Police Station

Major Telesforo Galvez
Battalion Commander
1st Scout Ranger Battalion, 1SRR
Basilan

ISupt Rolando A. Purugganan
Logistics Officer
IG, PNP
Camp Crame, Quezon City

LTC DANILO P PELONELLO
CGSC, FT BONIFACIO
MUNICIPALITY

Lt.Col. Glorioso Miranda
Battalion Commander
26th Infantry Battalion, 6ID, PA
Davao Sur

Lt.Col. Roberto Rocio
Operations Officer
Signal Corps, PA
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City

Major Eduardo Davalan
Battalion Commander
4th Scout Ranger Battalion, 1SRR
Jolo, Sulu

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ANG LOCAL CELL PHONE CALLS

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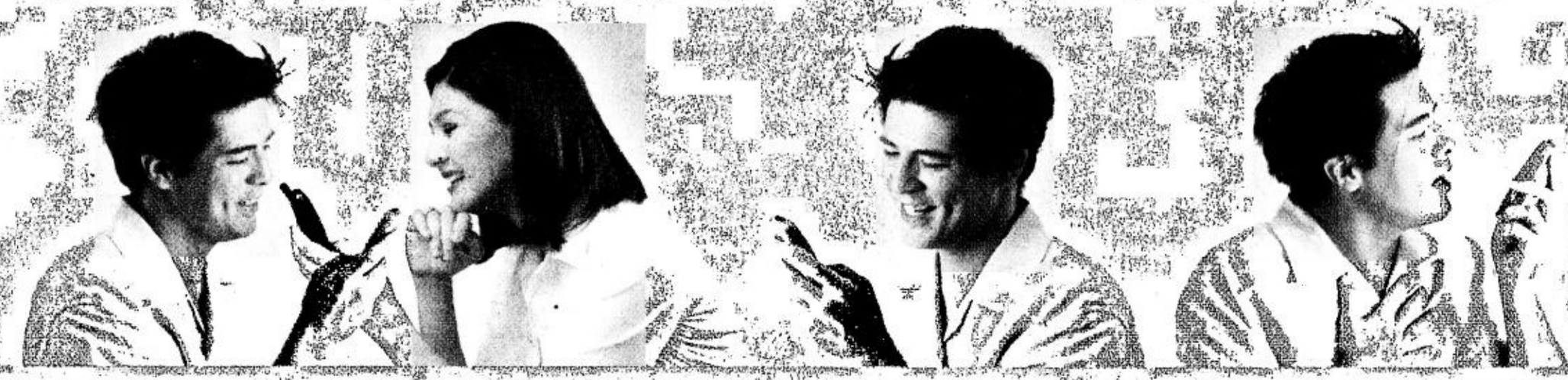
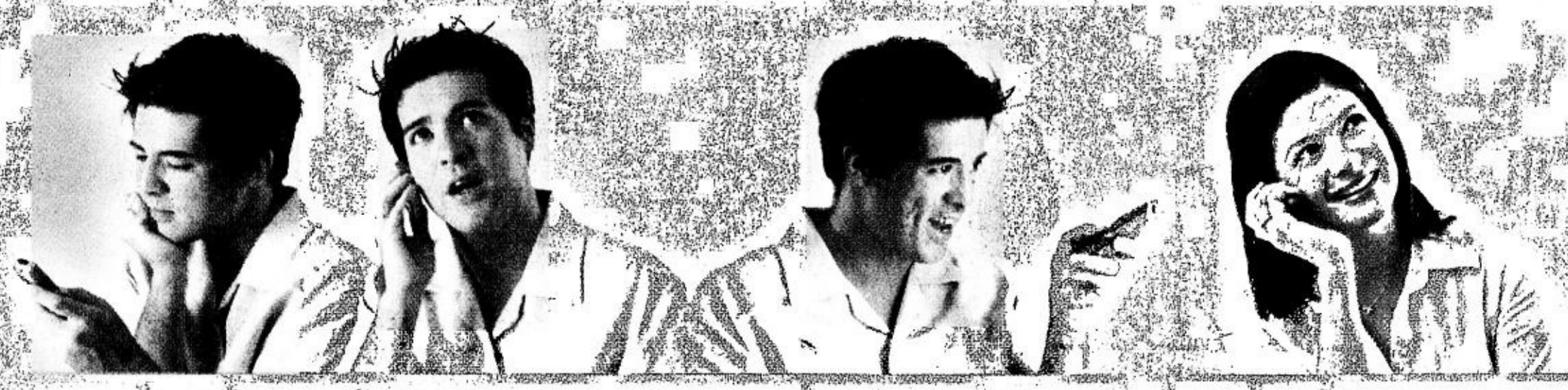
... maski tawag nang tawag OK lang! O mag-**TEXT** ng "hi," "hello"



o kaya "i luv u". O i-dial ang 8160, mag-record ng **VOICE MESSAGE**...



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S UARY 20, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
As the then vice president, Macapagal-Arroyo became the ultimate and willing beneficiary of People Power 2. Swept to power by an unlikely coalition composed of the Church, the military, the Left, big business and various people's organizations, she lost no time repaying debts by appointing a mixed bag of people in key positions. In three months her government was nearly toppled by a revolt of the masses, fomented in no small way by personalities identified with the jailed Estrada.

Edsa II gallery of faces

BY THE LIFESTYLE AND RESEARCH STAFF

THE EUPHORIA may have died down, but the tumult that was Edsa II continues to linger and affect Philippine sociopolitical life. No doubt what made its impact so moving and powerful was its stellar cast of players who ensured that Edsa II would become the smashing drama played out on the world's stage, complete with skullduggery, deception, cliffhanger, turning point, happy ending and epilogue. We remember them here, although this is by no means a complete recall. To be sure, the plot has thickened.

EDSA II/ p.C2

Joseph Estrada
The country's 13th president and arguably most charismatic, he won the presidency by a landslide by virtue of his popularity among the masses. Despite his pro-poor platform, the former movie star lived a lavish lifestyle, marked by drinking, gambling and cronyism. Battered by accusations of incompetence and corruption, the most damaging of which was inflicted by then Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, he was finally swept from power during the three-day People Power 2 revolt. He's now detained at the Veteran's Medical Memorial Center, together with eldest son Jinggoy, and facing charges of plunder before the Sandiganbayan.

THE MAIN PLAYERS

Cardinal Jaime Sin
Gave refuge to Singson after the exposé on Erap's illegal gambling ties. Issued a pastoral letter on Oct. 11, 2000, that said Estrada had lost the "moral ascendancy to govern" and that he should step down. Like what he did during the People Power I, Cardinal Sin called on the people to come to Edsa to pray and to protest. He is a leading supporter of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

Luis "Chavit" Singson
Although far from being lily-white himself, Singson, then governor of Ilocos Sur and also one of the alleged gambling lords of the North, has earned a place in history as the whistle blower and star witness in the bribery and graft and corruption case against Estrada. Singson's motivation to tell all was spurred primarily by self-preservation. Estrada's cohorts, he said, threatened to liquidate him. Nevertheless, the opposition jumped at the chance to finally nail Estrada.

Manuel Villar
Then representative of Las Piñas and Speaker of the House, he was identified with Estrada until he switched sides by railroading the impeachment complaint against the President, approving it, and endorsing it to the Senate. Voters later rewarded Villar with a Senate seat. As Senate President Pro-Tempore, he chairs the Senate committee on agriculture and food.

Aquilino Pimentel
Resigned as Senate President when the majority voted against opening the infamous second envelope, which many believed contained more incriminating evidence against Estrada. Earlier, together with nine other senator-judges, Pimentel had voted to open the envelope. He's still a senator but is now head of the minority in a twist that has not surprised Filipinos so used to the spellbindingly comic and ironic nature of Philippine politics.

Hilario Davide
As presiding officer of the impeachment case against Estrada, Supreme Court Chief Justice Davide earned the respect of Filipinos for his tempered, impartial and informed way of presiding over a landmark and often unwieldy trial fraught with drama, histrionics, partisanship and politicking. Davide, who was voted last year as INQUIRER's Filipino of the Year, still reigns supreme in the country's highest court.

Joker Arroyo
Then representative of Makati's 1st district, Arroyo was a member of the prosecution team and lead counsel in the graft and corruption cases against Estrada, including cases involving the tobacco tax kickback and unexplained wealth. He also exposed the "Jose Velarde" account during the impeachment trial. He's now a senator and the chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee and public services.

Gen. Angelo Reyes
AFP Chief of Staff who defected from Estrada. The move was said to have been the killer blow to the Erap presidency as it was followed by Macapagal-Arroyo's take-over of the government. In an interview for Playtime, Reyes said his defecting was one of the most difficult things he had ever done. A retired general, he is now secretary of the Department of National Defense.

Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos
The two former presidents and original key Edsa players found themselves joining forces again in ousting another president by lending their moral and political weight to the protest movement. Aquino called for Estrada's resignation at the Edsa Shrine on the first night of protest, while the peripatetic Ramos marched directly with supporters from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport the next day soon after arriving from a trip abroad. Cory has led a more quiet life, while steady Eddie has been more active doing the speech circuit. Although he has been rewarded with the appointments of men from his camp, he appears to have wavered lately in his support for Macapagal-Arroyo by floating the idea of running again in 2004. Meanwhile, his own allies from politics and the military establishment have become vocal in criticizing President Macapagal-Arroyo, even calling for her ouster.

Edsa II gallery of faces

(From page C1)

OTHER MEMORABLE FIGURES

Miriam Defensor-Santiago
Maid Miriam was feisty and pro-Erap during the impeachment trial.Half-way through the trial, she lashed out at three observers in the gallery for allegedly looking at her "provoca-tively." The woman, who almost became president in 1992, lost her Senate seat in the May elections. Santiago has since reinvented herself as a theologian with her book "Christianity versus Corruption."

Raul Roco
Then senator, he came to the defense of lawyer and prosecution witness Jasmin Banal, who was earlier grilled by Santiago for the reason behind her decision to move to a lower-paying job in a smaller law firm.Roco, who also voted to open the second envelope, is now education secretary.

Tessie Aquino-Oreta
Was one of the 11 senators who blocked the opening of the second envelope. Overjoyed by the "no" win, she did that infamous jiggle which was caught on camera. That was when she became known as the "dancing queen." She has since set aside her dancing career to attend to her duties as senator and member of the opposition.

Sergio Osmeña III
One of the senator judges who voted to open the second envelope. He won his reelection bid last year and soon had a falling out with Macapagal-Arroyo. He came out late last year accusing the government of violating its own policy by agreeing to pay ransom to the Abu Sayyaf for the release of a prominent businessman and his female companion.

Franklin Drilon
The big man was caught on camera crying and embracing resigned Senate president Pimentel and Sen. Loren Legarda when the "yes" votes lost by one, signaling the abrupt end of the trial and the beginning of People Power 2. Drilon won reelection and has wrested the Senate presidency from Pimentel.

Loren Legarda
The senator and television celebrity made a dent at the popular image of the broadcast person as just a photogenic face or just a modulated voice by asking intelligent questions during the impeachment trial. Will be best remembered perhaps for crying unabashedly when the Senate voted not to open the second envelope. And for wearing those gorgeous pashminas.

Clarissa Ocampo
The prosecution's surprise witness, the then SVP for trust of Equitable PCIBank testified that she was just a foot away when Joseph Estrada assumed Jose Velarde's identity by signing documents pertaining to a P500-million trust account. She has retired from her executive position with the bank but remains a consultant.

Charlie "Atong" Ang
Estrada's most prominent crony and one-time Pagcor consultant reportedly brought money to Estrada every week as part of the president's share in the *jueteng* largesse. He left the country at the height of People Power 2 and was later arrested by US law enforcers in Las Vegas. Ang has sought political asylum as he faces possible extradition to the Philippines.

Edgardo Espiritu
The former finance secretary of Estrada testified in the impeachment trial and painted a damaging portrait of a president who was rarely sober, had no work ethic, and in drunken glee, often expressed joy at the quick profits he was making by just sitting in the Palace. He also said Estrada was close to smuggling lords, whom he refused to name. A close relative of pro-Estrada Sen. Ramon Revilla, he said he was speaking out "for God and for country."

MEN IN UNIFORM

Gen. Renato De Villa
A major part of the United Opposition that toppled the Estrada administration. A retired general and former defense secretary, De Villa now heads his political party Reporma. He had a bypass surgery last year and is currently in the United States.

Gen. Leandro Mendoza
Was PNP deputy director general when Edsa 2 erupted. With General Reyes, he escorted the embattled Estrada out of Malacañang. After much controversy, he finally got appointed as director general of the Philippine National Police.

Gen. Fortunato Abat
One of the retired generals who asked the Armed Forces to "help Estrada make the decision to step down." He now chairs the Federation of Retired Commissioned and Enlisted Soldiers (or Forces) and is a constant critic of the present government.

Col. Victor Corpus
One of those who worked behind the scenes in convincing General Reyes to withdraw support from Estrada. Currently chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), he is responsible for the exposés on the alleged drug links of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Reynaldo Wycoco
PNP deputy director general when he defected from Estrada, he is now director of the National Bureau of Investigation.

MILITANTS

Ruth Cervantes
Former president of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines who emceed the four-day rally at the Edsa Shrine. She led the crowd in chanting "Erap, resign!" and "*Sigaw ng bayan: Arestuhin si* Erap!," keeping it awake even at unholy hours. She is now an officer of Bayan Muna.

Teodoro Casiño
The secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan when it joined others in filing the impeachment raps against Estrada in late 2000 and took part in Edsa 2. Still the Bayan secretary general, he has turned his bombast against the present government.

Satur Ocampo
the president of Bayan Muna when the newly formed political party started organizing rallies to drive Estrada out of Malacañang. Still the party's president, he won a seat in Congress under the party-list system in the May elections.

Loretta Ann Rosales
the party-list representative of Sanlakas in the 11th Congress when the group joined Pare, the anti-Erap coalition. She is now with the international desk of Sanlakas. The group ran but lost under the party-list system in the May elections.

OTHER MILITANTS

Emilia Dapulan
The executive vice chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno when it joined other complainants in filing the impeachment raps and participating in Edsa 2. She's still vice chair of KMU whose favorite whipping girl these days is GMA.

Norberto Gonzales
Chair of the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas when it joined others in filing the impeachment raps and attending the Edsa 2 rallies. He has since been appointed presidential adviser for special concerns. PDSP ran but lost under the party-list system in the May elections.

Sonny Melencio
Chair of the Sosyalistang Partido ng Paggawa when it joined other nongovernment organizations in forming Pare, or People's Action to Remove Erap. He is still the SPP chair.

Luis Jalandoni
From the Netherlands, the spokesperson of the National Democratic Front threw its support for the movement to compel Estrada to resign. He sent his statements through the e-mails and the Internet. He is also a member of the executive council and peace panel of the NDF, which remains critical and on war footing with whoever is sitting in Malacañang.

Liza Maza
Secretary general of Gabriela, the feminist group that rallied for the resignation of Estrada. She won a seat in Congress as party-list representative of Bayan Muna in the May elections.

Aurora Parong
The executive director of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines when it joined Masa Ayaw kay Erap, a coalition of anti-Erap NGOs. She still heads TFDP.

Other militant and semi-militant groups that joined the massive rallies at Edsa demanding for the ouster of Estrada were: Kadamay (Katipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap); Bisig (Bukluran para sa Ikauunlad ng Sosyalistang Isip at Gawa); Kasama-Ka (Katipunan ng mga Samahang Maralita sa Kalunsuran); Kapatid (Kaagapay ng Pamahalaan Tungo sa Ikauunlad ng Mga Dukha); Katipunang Anak-Pawis.

By their names, one can deduce that, contrary to the Estrada camp's constant claim, the ousted president did not have a monopoly on the sympathies of the Filipino poor.

Some of these groups seem to have been dissolved after Edsa 2, but you can be sure they're just there lying dormant but ready to rise to the occasion at the next political upheaval.

EDSA II/ p.C4

Cebu holds an 8-8-8 anniversary dinner

THE CEBU chapter of La Chaine des Rotisseurs celebrated its eighth anniversary with a formal dinner at the Rosal Ballroom of the Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort.

Hotel general manager **Ben Bousnina** and food and beverage director **Mark Kirk** had promised it would be the best ever, and it was. Kirk decided to research the best eight recipes by the eight best chefs for the eight courses on the menu.

Amparito Lhuillier, Baili of La Chaine in Cebu, and the rest of her officers—**Markus Stern**, **Teresing Mendezona**, **Dietmar Dietrich**, **Julian Divinagracia** and **Al Evangelio**—could hardly wait to see and taste the menu, which they managed to do a week before the formal dinner. The group pronounced the lineup superb. No wonder all available seats at the five tables set for the dinner were taken before deadline.

The menu cards listed the courses and the chefs: Prawns Villa Lorraine, **Anton Mosimann**; Potage of Leek with Truffles, **Franz Thiess**; Poached Swordfish, **Cherlie Trotter**; Duck Fillet with Orange, **Angelo Faoro**; Summit Sherbet, Monsieur Bousnina himself; Noisette of Lamb, **Marco Pierre White**; Goat Cheese Gratin, **Adolfo Lopez**; and Feuillantine Nougatine, a heavenly mosaic of fruits and berries, **Obauer Brothers**.

The wines served were exquisite, especially the white Enate Barrica Chardonnay 1999, from an idyllic vineyard in Alto Aragon, Huesca, Spain. They all came from Bacchus, which had just opened that same day its shop at the lobby of the Shangri-La. Quite a cellar it has. When and where will the next Chaine dinner be? Amparito is looking at the calendar, and we await her announcement.

Elegant palazzo in Cebu

THE PHILIPPINE embassy in Italy is housed in an elegant palazzo in the posh district of Parioli in Rome. Our Ambassador there, **Philippe Lhuillier**, who is from Cebu, and his wife, **Edna Diago Lhuillier**, who is from Dumaguete City, have made a replica of it to house their regional offices in Cebu City.

The building has become an attractive landmark on Acacia Street, in the district of Lahug, and its recent inauguration drew an elegant crowd. Mme. **Angelita Lhuillier**, Philippe's dear mom, cut the ribbon. Rev. Fr. **Lugi Kerschbamer** of the Discalced Augustinians blessed the new offices. Assisting were Philippe and Edna's pretty daughter, **Angie**, who, with her husband **Martin Miranda**, lives in Cebu.

From the Philippe Lhuillier Building everyone trooped to the grand opening at the Ayala Entertainment Center of Cebu's Tequila Joe. "*Le tout*" Cebu was there and many more. Genial hosts were **Cheling** and **Susan Sala**, **Tony** and **Grace Lozada**, **Ricky** and **Gina Dakay**. In full charge was **Ramon Maquilan**, formerly with the Marriott. Among the VIPs were Mayor **Tommy Osmeña** with wife **Margot** and son **Miguel**; the venerable **Lim Liu**, who was among the sponsors; Vice Mayor **Michael Rama**, and **Margie Lhuillier** breezing in from California.

Six-month hiatus

THE PEACE Philharmonic of the Philippines (PPP) gave a farewell performance during the third of the Marriott Hotel's Chamber Classics series. **Ingrid Sala Santamaria**, chair of the Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation, which has nurtured the orchestra in a 10-year-development program, announced recently that the PPP would suspend all performances and related activities for the next six months. She wanted to spend the time working on the establishment of a foundation to support the orchestra, and an endowment fund to keep it going. If she accomplishes the task, Ingrid will present the PPP in a comeback concert in June.

NATIONAL Artist Napoleon Abueva and Ingrid Sala Santamaria at the PPP farewell concert

Alabang mall showcases Masskara

A GRAND Masskara Festival perks up the month of January at the Alabang Town Center as it mounts a grand sale and pop and cultural activities until Feb. 3.

Alabang Town Center joins the Department of Tourism and the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp., with the Philippine Retailers Association, in staging "Grand Fiesta Sale." Participating malls adopt a local region or province for their mall décor or display, and showcase the destination's attractions and products to help promote domestic tourism.

Alabang Town Center has turned the mall into a mini Iloilo, Bacolod and Boracay, and showcases different events and activities. Among them, a *tiangge* at the Town Plaza where native delicacies and handicrafts are showcased; a *manghuhula* festival where fortune-tellers and henna tattoo artists will be featured (Jan. 26-27, Feb. 2-3); a parade of tribes and princesses who will be dressed up like festival queens (Jan. 27); a rave party (Jan. 26) and an *ati-atihan* competition (Feb. 3).

The activities will culminate in a festive street party featuring the retro music of Mulatto.

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

The Marriott ballroom, which had very good acoustics for musical concerts, had a nostalgic crowd. **Christiane Wasfy**, the GM, said in her speech that it was a dream come true for her to hold concerts in the hall. Before the actual performance, the Filipino Foundation, headed by Gen. **Manuel Mercado**, presented its highest form of recognition—the Baul Award—to Ingrid for all she had done for Cebu's cultural scene. She handed over the cash grant that went with the award to the one person in the PPP regarded as an exemplary musician—**Virgilio Ylaya**.

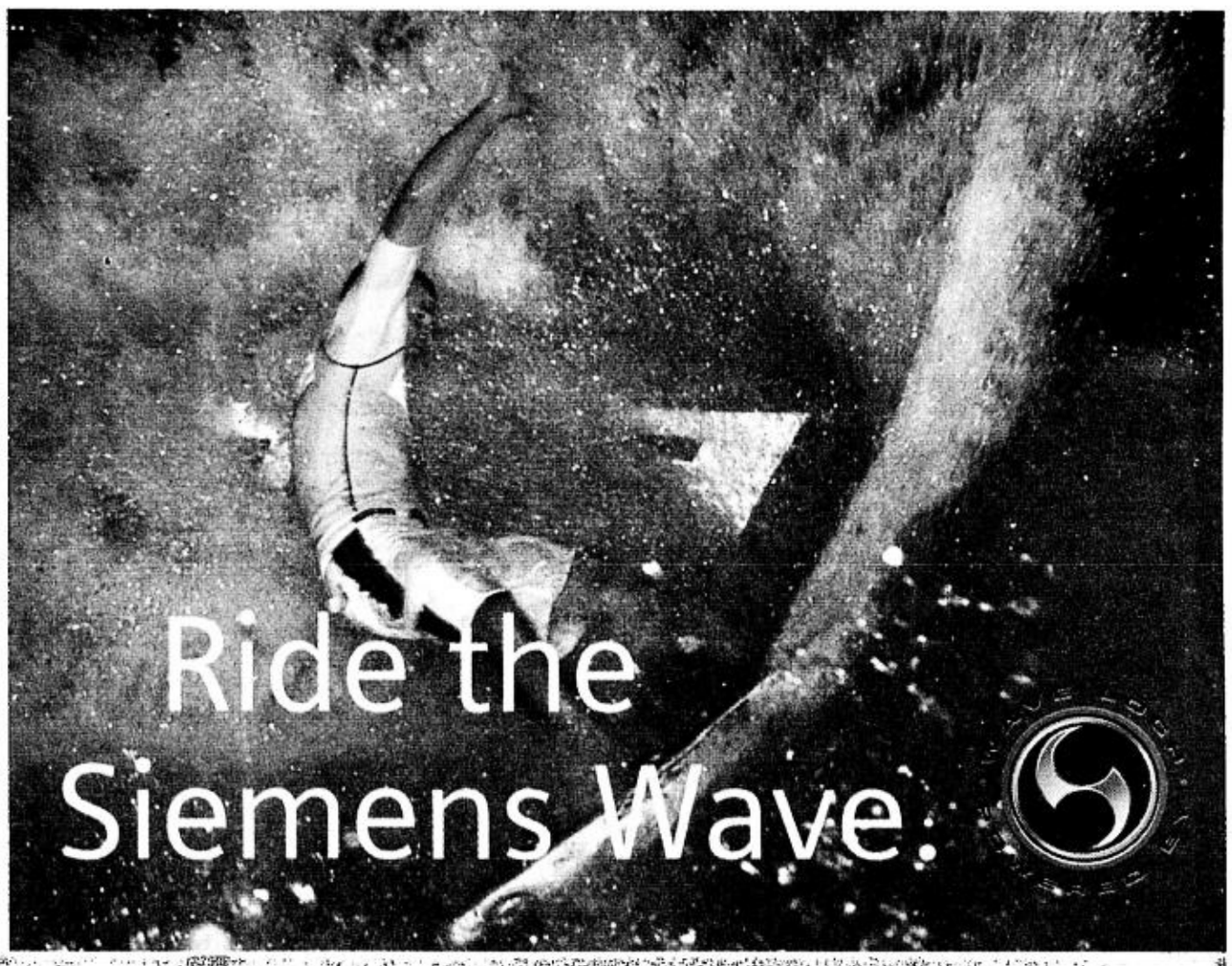
The presentation took no more than 10 minutes. It was followed by the first number in the musical program—Vivaldi's Concerto in B Minor for Four Violins and String Orchestra, conducted by **Jeffrey Solares** and featuring violinists **Rey Lecciones**, **Sara Gonzalez**, **Franza Lanzaderas** and **Ebb Galindo**. Telemann's Concerto for Flute and Recorder followed with soloists **Martin Alvarez** and **Bjorn Gaviola**. **Ariel Perez** conducted, while **Jonathan Coo** was collaborating pianist.

Just as Haydn had conducted his orchestra for Prince Esterhazy, the Farewell Symphony (No. 45) had the musicians leaving the stage one by one or in small groups, with the conductor, on this occasion Maestro **Chino Toledo**, being the last to leave. But the entire PPP was on stage once more for the finale, a rousing medley of **Leroy Anderson** music superbly conducted by **Roberto del Rosario**. Such was the applause that he obliged with an encore. Cebu is grateful to Ingrid for providing the city with a musical soul. Everyone wishes her success in her next endeavor.

AT THE LHUILLIER Building's chapel—Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier, his son John Henry Lhuillier, Rev. Fr. Luigi Kerschbamer, Angie Lhuillier Miranda and Edna Diago Lhuillier

For an 8th anniversary, the eight-course menu had the best eight recipes by the eight best chefs

AMPARITO Lhuillier and Ben Bousnina



Manila, January 22nd - January 27th, 2002
Quirino Grandstand, Roxas Boulevard
City of Manila

The Siemens Mobile Wave Tour is the ultimate in urban sports innovation. Imagine being able to surf waves of up to 4m high at the Quirino Grandstand. Come and check out the Siemens Mobile Wave Tour and watch local and international surfers compete. You can even text your vote for the "Funniest Ride" or "Best Trick" contest. See you there!

8:30-11:00 PM	Official Wave Launch	9:00-11:00 AM	Riding of the Local and Foreign Surfers exhibition
23rd & 24th January (Th		1:00-3:00 PM	Mixed activities of Local and Foreign Surfers & "Bet the Wave"
1:00-3:00 PM	Int'l. Surfers Exhibition/Local Surfers Training & "Bet the Wave"	4:00-6:00 PM	Mixed activities of Local and Foreign Surfers & "Bet the Wave"
4:00-6:00 PM	Int'l. Surfers Exhibition/Local Surfers Training & "Bet the Wave"	7:00-9:00 PM	Finals-Int'l Surfers Competition
7:00-9:00 PM	Int'l. Surfers Wave Exhibition & "Funniest Ride/Best Trick Contest"	9:00-10:30 PM	Special Performance by Pido and Take One Band
9:00-10:00 PM	Special Performance by Groove Nation		
		9:00-11:00 AM	Local Surfers exhibition
		1:00-3:00 PM	Int'l Surfers and Local Surfers Joint Exhibition & "Bet the Wave"
		4:00-6:00 PM	Int'l Surfers and Local Surfers Joint Exhibition & "Bet the Wave"
1:00-3:00 PM	Int'l Surfers Exhibition & "Bet the Wave"	7:00-8:00 PM	Closing of Pro Surfers Exhibition
4:00-6:00 PM	Local Competition Elimination and Finals	8:00-9:30 PM	Special Performance by Hyperbeat Band
7:00-9:00 PM	Int'l Qualification Competitions	9:30 PM	Foam Party
9:00-10:30 PM	Special Performance by Mulatto Band		

Shuttle services available from 11 AM-11 PM at the CCP Complex going to the Quirino Grandstand.
(For SIEMENS Mobile Wave Tour ticket holders only)

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Per BIR Permit no. 3308, series of 2001

CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH

National Council of Churches in the Philippines
The non-Catholic churches under the NCCP called for the resignation of Estrada. This federation of mainline Protestant churches continues to voice its positions on such issues as the minimum wage increase, the war in Afghanistan and Estrada's trial.

United Church of Christ in the Philippines
The Protestant church's members include former President Fidel Ramos and former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay. It called for Estrada's resignation.

Ateneo de Manila University, University of Santo Tomas, De La Salle University, Miriam College, St. Scholastica's College and other Catholic schools; University of the Philippines
Catholic educators and students, along with those in state schools, joined the rallies against the Estrada administration. The participation of the students in the rallies provided in particular the youthful character of Edsa II. The educators and students remain watchful of the policies, programs and performance of the new government.

Financial Executives of the Philippines
One of the major Philippine business groups that issued a resolution asking Estrada to step down amid the scandal and the freefalling peso. It now works closely with the government in sourcing and mobilizing funds for housing, small and medium enterprises.

Bishops-Businessmen's Conference
Called for Estrada's resignation, saying that "the economy cannot rebound under conditions of uncertainty and the growing perception of wrongdoing in the highest circles of government." BBC remains vocal on the social and economic issues prevailing in the country.

Couples for Christ
Called for the resignation of Estrada through advertisements published in the newspapers, citing that the president had failed the poor, the youth and, most of all, God. The homegrown Catholic group was one of the first organizations to arrive in Edsa and one of the largest congregations present during the initial hours. They carried banners and distributed candles for the prayer rallies. Presently, the CFC has been doing its part in waste management, drug rehabilitation and the care of street children.

Bankers Association of the Philippines
The group joined other business groups in calling for Estrada's resignation. BAP continues to work closely with the government, particularly in the passage of the law on money laundering.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo
The Zamboanga archbishop was president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines when he called for the resignation of Estrada on Oct. 14, 2000. He's still president of the CBCP.

Fr. Robert Reyes
Called the "running priest," he was among the first to demand the resignation of Estrada. He founded Gomburza-KKK and remains chair of the group. He has been Catholic chaplain of the University of the Philippines since 1996. Father Reyes is critical of the administration.

Bishop Socrates Villegas
As Cardinal Sin's spokesman, he gave civil society groups the controversial order to stop their march to Mendiola. He's now auxiliary bishop of Manila.

Dante Jimenez, Bettina Aboitiz and Rosanna Tuason-Fores
They were removed from the Senate gallery during the impeachment trial after a fuming then senator Miriam Santiago complained that they were "eyeing me provocatively." Jimenez remains chair of the Crusade Against Violence, one of the groups that filed the impeachment complaint against Estrada. Aboitiz remains involved in her family livelihood projects. Tuason-Fores is now a social secretary under the Office of the President.

Edsa II gallery of faces

(From page C2)

Nora Aunor
Estrada's superstar campaigner, she opened a Pandora's box when she revealed she had had a romantic relationship with Estrada in which, she suggested, she had been a battered woman. Called for his resignation. Ran unsuccessfully for governor in Bicol last May. She just finished holding a major concert at the Music Museum. She is set to release an album within the year.

Apo Hiking Society
Jim Paredes, Danny Javier and Buboy Garovillo joined other singers and television personalities at Edsa. Paredes, a New Age advocate, has brought into the country such speakers as Neil Donald Walsch, author of the best-selling "Conversations with God" books. The trio, who were among the early birds at Edsa, are now promoting their new album "Apo... Banda Rito."

Bong Revilla
Then Cavite governor, the actor was best friend to Estrada's son Jinggoy when he called for Erap's resignation at Edsa. He sought reelection last May but lost. He has a TV sitcom, "Idol Ko si Kap," where he plays the lead role. His movie "Mahal Kita: Final Answer" will reach theaters soon.

Rosanna Roces
One of artists who were quite vocal in voicing their disappointment at the Estrada administration. She remains busy with her show-biz career, doing last year's hit underworld thriller "La Vida Rosa" and hosting "Startalk," the weekly entertainment gossip show.

Joey Reyes
Among the movie directors who showed their dismay at the scandal-plagued Erap administration. His film "Live Show," about live sex performers, was banned by the new government and resulted in the ouster of the MTRCB's liberal chair, Nicanor Tiongson. Now busy directing "9 Morning," which topbills MTV VJ Donita Rose and matinee idol Piolo Pascual.

Luisa "Loi" Ejercito-Estrada
Former First Lady who ran for a Senate seat last May and won. She's now part of the Senate minority.

Jinggoy Estrada
The eldest son of Estrada with Loi, he was on his third term as San Juan mayor when all hell broke loose. He is now facing charges of plunder with his father, with whom he is detained at the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center.

JV Ejercito
Estrada's son by former starlet Guia Gomez, he's now the incumbent mayor of San Juan. His mother, one of Estrada's mistresses, has returned to her role as "first lady" of San Juan since JV, a bachelor, has become mayor.

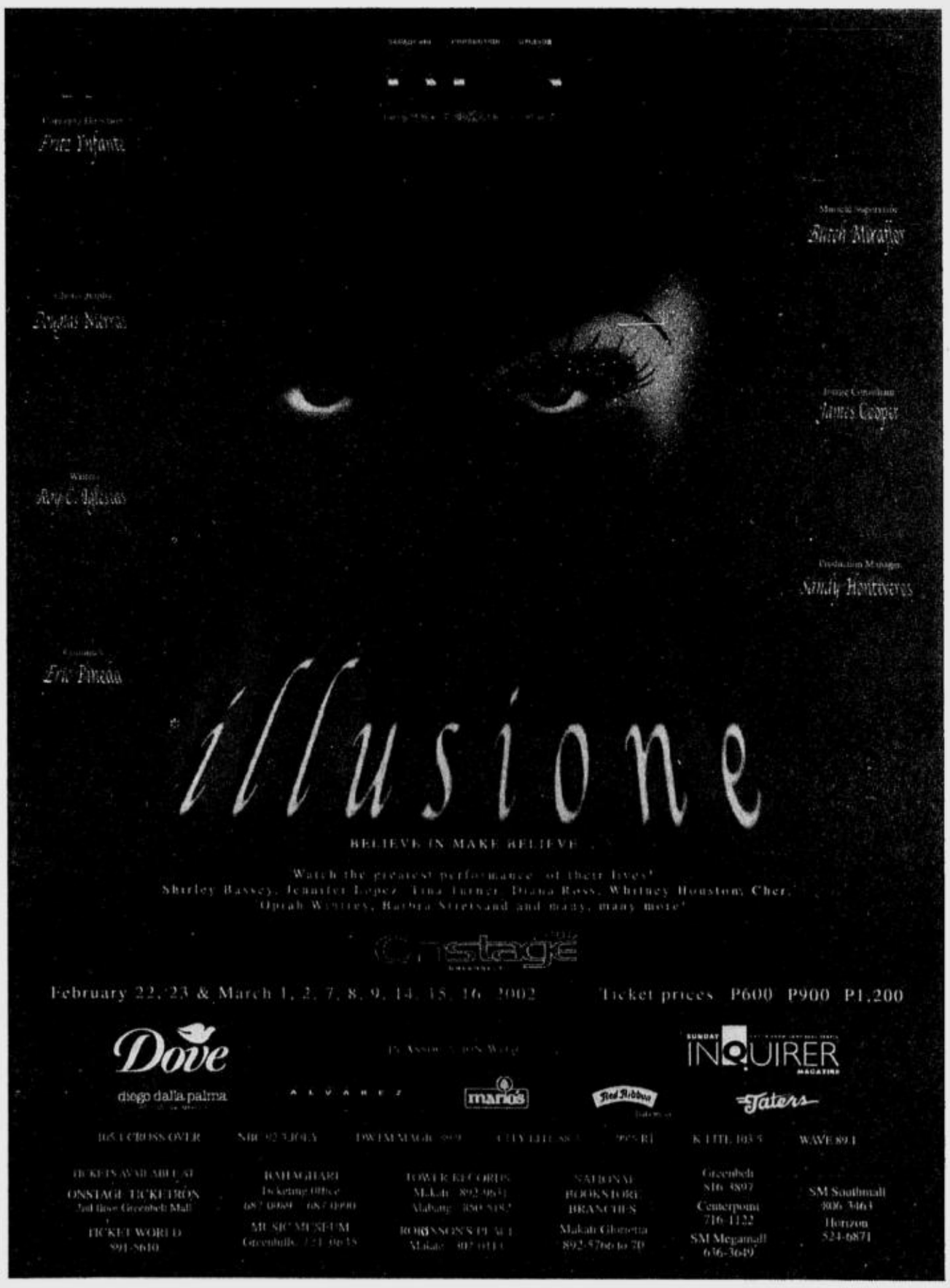
Panfilo Lacson
Chief of the Philippine National Police who left the Estrada government at the height of Edsa II, he ran under Estrada's Puwersa ng Masa last May and is now a member of the Senate minority. He has had to defend himself against Corpus' exposés.

Edgardo Angara
Replaced Ronaldo Zamora as Erap's executive secretary but failed to save the Estrada presidency. He was elected senator again last May under Estrada's Puwersa ng Masa.

Alberto Romualdez
Former health secretary, one of the few who remained with Estrada in Malacañang until the inevitable came. He's now the president of Friendly Care Foundation, a non-government organization promoting reproductive health.

Antonio Cerilles
Then environment secretary, he was one of the few Cabinet members who stayed with the Estradas amid the defections. He tried to retake his old congressional post in Zamboanga del Sur's 2nd district last May but lost. He now manages his radio station dxCA in Pagadian City, aside from real properties, farms and a rubber processing plant.

Edward Hagedorn
Three-term mayor of Puerto Princesa in Palawan, he was with Estrada when the president left the Palace. He ran for governor of Palawan last May but lost. He is now concentrating on his businesses in Palawan—Days Inn, a fast-food franchise and cable TV.



BEST SISTERS ACT. Alessandra and Assunta de Rossi, photographed at Woman Today studio and the author's studio

MR. INTERNATIONAL Model Alex Aquino photographed at Glorietta during the A-men photo exhibit

AIDS activist and daughter of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Marina Mahathir, was guest speaker at last year's Aids Congress held in Manila, photographed at Bravo in Malate

URBAN Doctor Ed Tolentino giving survival tips on Channel 5, photographed at The Fort

MAGSAYSAY Awardee, Octogenarian and Red Cross governor Rosa Rosal, photographed at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club

POPS Fernandez, looking fabulous and sexy at the Fort

MTV VJ of the year, Derreck Ramsay, photographed at Venezia

The most intriguing people in 2001—Part I

LAST year was an extremely nervous year from start to finish. In the Philippines, there were the impeachment trial, Edsa 2 and 3, Abu Sayaf kidnappings and the **Nida Blanca, Strawberry** and **Carlson** deaths. In New York City, the world watched in horror as terrorists rammed two commercial jets into the World Trade Center. Tragedy also brings out the best in people and we saw bravery and heroism on the streets.

It was a tumultuous year, but we managed relatively well and survived the very contentious events. Luckily, we have a list of most beautiful/intriguing people to lighten our psyche and inspire us. They are talented, visually pleasing and hardworking. They also devote precious time to charitable projects and other worthy endeavors.

May we see more of them in 2002!

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

ADMAN of the year Dave Guerrero with wife Angel, and Kim Shaw from Australia, photographed in Cebu

BEAUTIFUL mom Lucy Torres Gomez with year-old daughter Julianna, photographed at Wack Wack ballroom

INTERNATIONALLY renowned Filipino pianist, Cecile Licad, photographed with NY-based pianist Rene Dalandan at Havana in Malate

TOYM Awardee and INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, photographed with husband Philip at the Tatler launch

PBA ROOKIE OF YEAR. Blonde-dyed Mark Cagioa with Jun Limpot at BagaVerde opening

CHARMING YAN BROTHERS. Rico and Bobby, photographed at author's studio

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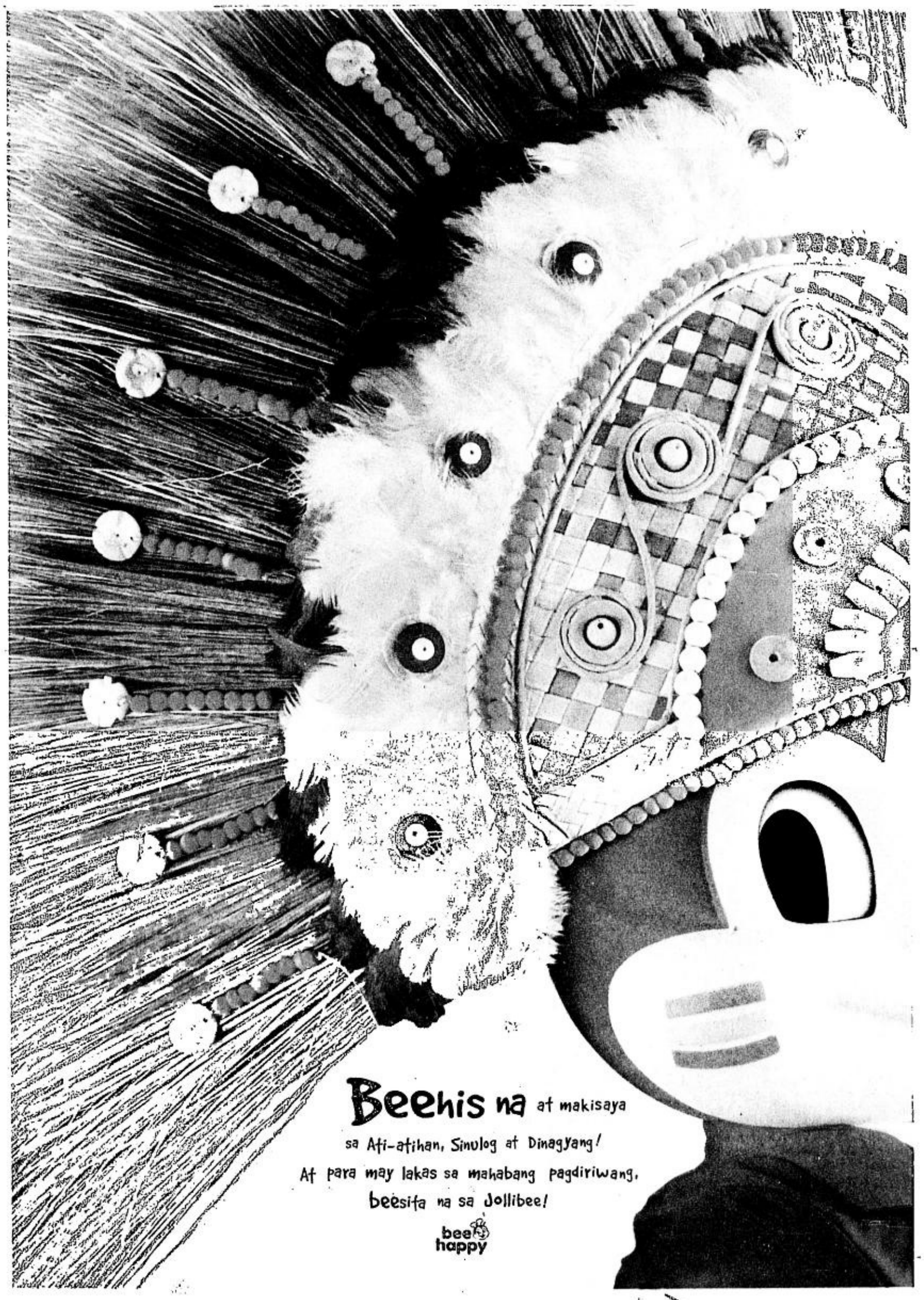
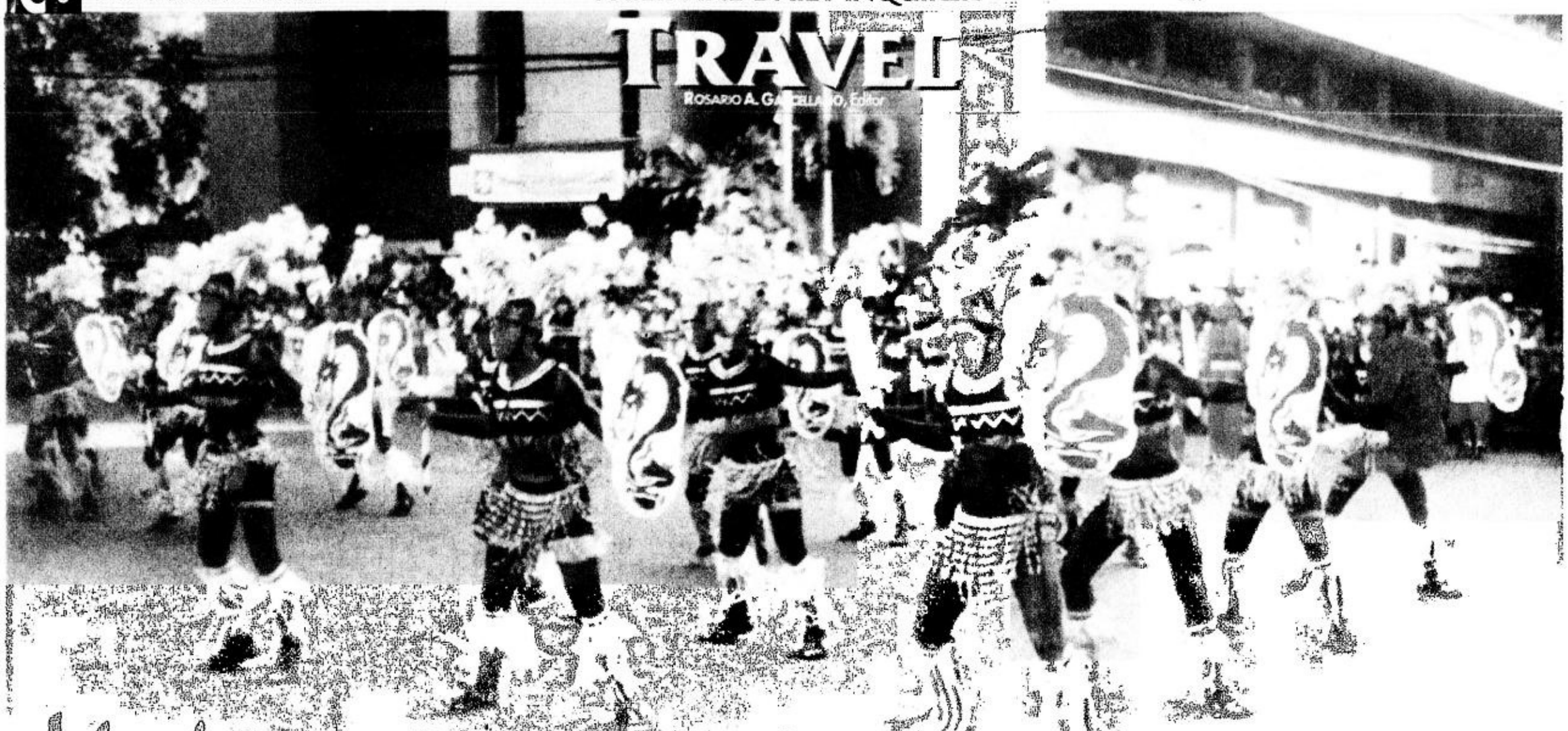




Making merry in Iloilo

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY AMADÍS MA. GUERRERO

IN CATHOLIC Philippines, January is the month of the Santo Niño, the Holy Child Jesus. It is a time of festivals, pagan revelry, folk Catholicism, grand parades, dancing in the streets, outlandish costumes, adroit choreography, and rhythmic, if thunderous, drumbeats.

The people of Aklan started it all with their Ati-Atihan, a spectacular success. Then the other Visayans followed suit, like the people of Antique with their Biniyaran, of Cebu with their Sinulog, and of Iloilo with their Dinagyang, among other feasts.

Recently, to, uh, drum up support for the Dinagyang ("to make merry" in Hiligaynon), Iloilo City Mayor Jerry P. Treñas (a product of the Ateneo University and a Bar topnotcher), the Iloilo Dinagyang Foundation and the Iloilo Business invited media persons to a preview of the festival.

The visitors were provided tantalizing glimpses of the rich culture of the province in the course of the hectic two-day familiarization tour.

There was Iloilo's to-die-for cuisine. At Breakthrough and Tatoy's restaurants, the tables groaned with fresh, succulent oysters, seafood soup, native chicken, grilled squid, roast pig, *daing*-style fish, and shrimps and prawns. And don't forget the *bachoy* (Ilonggo noodles in soup) at Ted's and the *broas, hojaldres, biscochos* and other biscuits at the Panaderia de Molo that the Visayans do so well.

During the evening buffet at the garden of the Arevalo Sinamay House, where exquisite cloth is hand-woven using a traditional loom, I demolished a plateful of scallops on shells, and shamelessly waited for seconds.

Festivals, folk rites and general revelry are the thing in this month of the Holy Child

The Arevalo mansion, one of many old houses in Iloilo, is the ancestral home of the Gisons. Owner Cecilia Gison Arevalo informed us that she inherited the house, which is filled with antique objects, from her mother Rosario Chavez Gison, who was born in 1903.

The house, in turn, belonged to Rosario's grandfather, which would make it close to 200 years old.

Also two centuries old is the church of Santo Tomas de Villanueva in Miag-ao, one of the Philippines' great churches, with its unique floral façade. (The renovated ceiling, not very attractive, had drawn the ire of INQUIRER columnist Bambi L. Harper. The good-natured parish priest, Msgr. Claudio Sale, pointed out that the renovations were done before his time, and he indicated he would rectify the matter.)

Precious antiques—religious or secular—are also found in the Museo Iloilo, with its tableaus of indigenous peoples, and at the Archdiocese of Jaro headed by Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo.

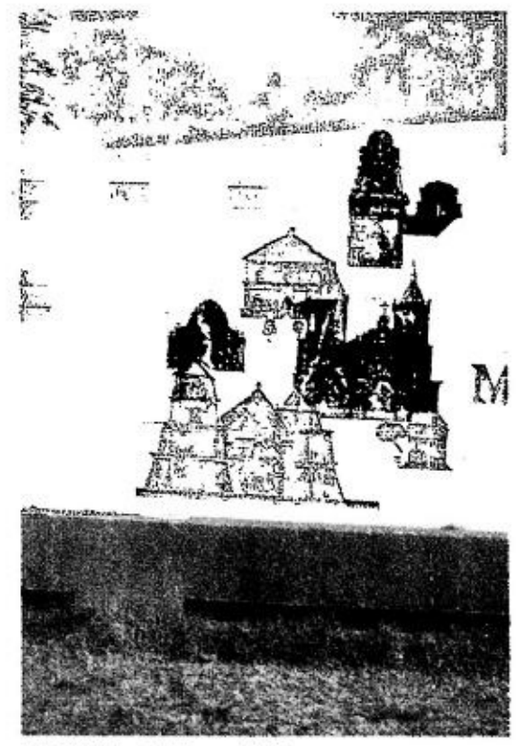
At the Archbishop's Palace, we learn from Fr. Neil Antenor-Cruz, official spokesperson, that many members of the Jaro clergy had supported the revolutionary ferment in 1897.

When the revolutionary government was proclaimed in November 1898, Gen. Martin Delgado, the leader, a graduate of the St. Vincent Ferrer Seminary, "found trusted aides and loyal supporters" among the Jaro clergy (from "Jaro" by Fr. Midyphil B. Billones).

Cut to the Iloilo Golf and Country Club in Santa Barbara, northwest of the capital city. "This is the oldest golf and country club in Asia," said a sprightly Anatolio T. Viray, 88, father of opera singer Gamaliel Viray.

"And I," he announced, beaming, "am the oldest golf and country club manager in Asia."

Nearby is the Santa Barbara Sanitarium, where you will see the members of the Women United Through Handcrafted Lace and Embroidery Inc., a project of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, at work.



FAÇADE of Museo Iloilo

Some of the women are Hansenites and they work with nimble fingers, rapidly creating attractive patterns and designs. The products, including vestments and framed works, are for sale—not inexpensive but worth it, considering the skill and the painstaking labor required.

In the evening, hosts Marissa, Kristin, Rowena and Nereo (a former PDI Visayas correspondent) took us on a tour of the city bathed in lights. A wondrous sight to behold at night is the Lizares Mansion, now the Angelicum School, with practically every inch of the façade lighted up.

And then, what do you know, we went barhopping.

Barracks Bar, a huge watering hole catering to the young, was bursting at the seams that Friday night. And things were even livelier at Vega, a disco house, with the dancers galvanized by a DJ who certainly knew his music. (Boy, these young Ilonggos really know how to unwind at week's end.)

The Dinagyang festivities actually began last Dec. 17 and continued off and on through January with Masses, a beauty pageant, parlor games, a kayak race and other activities.

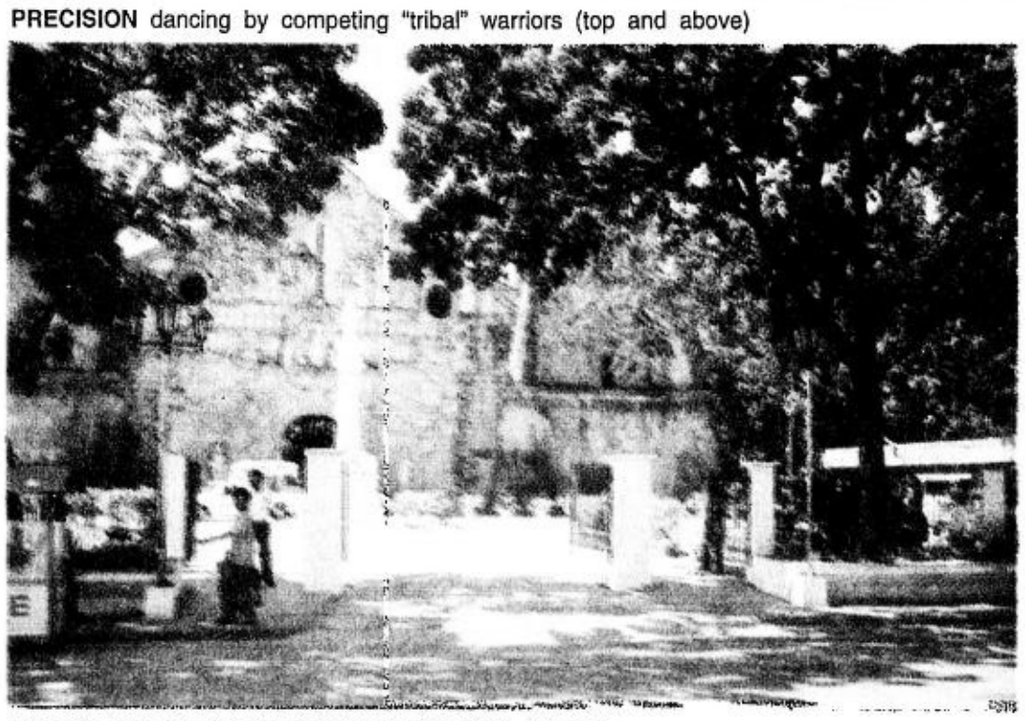
The preview for the media showcased three so-called "tribes"—the Tribu Bola-Bola, a cultural group of the Iloilo National High School, with Rommel Flogen as choreographer; the barangay-based Tribu Pana-ad, with choreographer Robmar Buensuceso; and the Tribu Paghidaet of the Lapaz National High School, with choreographer Ramil Huyatid.

The three groups radiated fierce, youthful stamina and precision dancing, hardly missing a beat with their frenzied but well-rehearsed movements.

The festival culminates on Jan. 27 with a grand parade of all 13 "tribes" in competition, followed by dancing in the streets in the afternoon.

With the hype over Dinagyang and other festivals (such as the Parao Regatta this summer), and over the ecotourism potential and economic opportunities, Iloilo officials led by the charismatic Mayor Treñas have served notice. They will reassert Iloilo's claim to the title of "Queen City of the South," which Cebu grabbed from her years ago.

PRECISION dancing by competing "tribal" warriors (top and above)



THE SANTO Tomas de Villanueva Church in Miag-ao

VIEW of the Iloilo Strait

TRAVEL BRIEFS

New GM

THE HONGKONG and Shanghai Hotels Ltd. has announced the promotion of David Batchelor to general manager of The Peninsula Manila following seven years with The Peninsula Hong Kong.

A qualified certified public accountant, Batchelor joined the flagship hotel in 1994 as financial controller. In his career, he has held various finance positions with The Regent Sydney and the Ritz Carlton Hotel Company in his native Australia and with the Far Eastern Plaza Hotel in Taipei.

He earned an economics degree at the University of Adelaide before studying hotel management at the Asia Pacific Basin Swiss Hotel Association International College of Hotel Management (formerly the Regency Park School of Food and Catering) in Adelaide.

The Peninsula Manila is a member of The Leading Hotels of the World.

Award winner

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) continues to earn international recognition.

Besides winning the 2001 Kalakbay Award for International Airline of the Year in the Philippines, SIA made it to the top list of media outfits' separate surveys of the world's leading companies last December.

It topped the Far Eastern Economic Review's annual survey of leading Asian companies. It ranked No. 1 among the 34 Singapore-based companies surveyed for the Review 200's edition of Dec. 20, 2001.

Apart from overall leadership, each company was ranked according to the quality of products and services, long-term vision of management, innovation in responding to customers' needs, financial soundness, and status as a model company. SIA has been holding the No. 1 spot since Review 200's inception in 1993.

In the Financial Times' survey of the World's Most Respected Companies, SIA ranked 50th—the only Singapore company that has made the list.

The December issue of Conde Nast Traveler also featured SIA as the Best International Carrier based on its survey among its readers. This was the 13th time in 14 years that SIA has been voted for this award.

New year rates

FOR THE NEW year, Dusit Hotel is offering room rates of P4,200 per night for weekdays and P3,500 per night for weekends.

These special rates include single or double overnight accommodation in a deluxe room for two adults and two children; buffet breakfast for two persons at The Café restaurant and a 50-percent discount for children aged 12 years and below; and complimentary use of Health Club facilities and swimming pool.

All Dusit Fountains Club members who avail themselves of the package are extended a 5-percent discount on top of the existing rates. (All rates are inclusive of customary service charge and applicable government taxes.)

Local residents and expatriates with valid Alien Certificate of Residency are eligible for this promotion with a maximum of three rooms per booking. The rates are not valid for corporate/conference bookings.

For reservations or inquiries call 829-2559 or 867-3333 extensions 3131 to 3134 or 3205; fax to 893-2479 or e-mail resvnmnl@dusit.com.

RUSSIAN WAVE

Tourism Undersecretary Rolando Reyes (extreme right) leads the welcome rites for 450 Russian tourists arriving at the Mactan International Airport. The visitors—composed of families on holiday, honeymooning couples and leisure travelers—took a 12-day tour of Cebu, Bohol and Boracay, which was organized by the Serp & K Travel Co. in Novosibirsk, Russia, and the Philippines' Blue Horizons Travel and Tours (BHTT). Others in photo are Cecile Sa-a and Aklan Rep. Gabrielle Calizo, BHTT branch manager (Cebu) and sales and marketing director, respectively; and Natalia Sazonova and Zoya Krashko, directors general of Serp & K.

Telemarketing practices have to be regulated

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

HOME tele-shopping used to be fun. You could get hooked on it, as journalist Luchi Garrido Bartolome found out. All you had to do was call the telephone number of the dealer, order the product of your choice, give your address and telephone number, and the goods would be promptly brought to your place, collect-on-delivery.

But now it has ceased to be fun for Bartolome. She complained that aggressive telemarketers, who got hold of her telephone number and address, had killed the fun out of home TV shopping for her. They pester her with endless telephone calls and send all kinds of letters offering products and services ranging from pots and pans to credit cards, hotel and travel club membership, herbals and dubious business deals.

"Aggressive telemarketing is giving a bad name to home TV shopping," Bartolome griped. "Some of them fool prospective buyers just so they can score a sale. For example, you are led to believe that their product is exclusive, but go around shopping malls and you will find the same product on sale."

Bartolome added that she was lured by a telemarketer into signing up for exclusive membership in a five-star hotel. One of the perks was a big discount during the holidays. However, when she tried to make a reservation to avail of the discounted rates, she was told that the hotel was fully booked for the holidays.

"There must be some code of ethics in telemarketing," the journalist suggested. First and foremost, they should not share customers' private contact numbers with other telemarketers. Truth in promotion should be upheld. And phone calls should not be made during unholy hours.

If we may add to that, telemarketing calls at the office of prospective customers should be banned during office hours.

Government employees not spared

Sometime ago, an official of the Civil Service Commission called attention to the practice of telemarketers to call up employees of government offices during working hours to offer credit cards and dubious investment schemes. It's a waste of office hours and the marketing calls tie up telephone lines, the official pointed out.

The official suggested the following measures:

- Issue an office memorandum warning employees about dubious telemarketing.
- Instruct telephone operators to be discriminate in forwarding calls.
- Instruct guards to limit access of salespeople.
- Complain to concerned companies about their aggressive and out-of-line telemarketers.

We are of the opinion that telemarketing calls and transactions should be banned during office hours. They are, after all, using up the taxpayers' money for their own gains.

Chaos at QC real estate office

WHY on earth didn't the clerks at the Quezon City real estate office learn how to use their newly acquired computers before property owners came to pay their taxes last week? They could have averted last week's confusion if they did.

We've never seen a more chaotic situation. There were very long queues. Names were missing on the computerized records, and the districts were filed wrongly. Taxpayers were coming and going in all directions to verify data. And worse, taxpayers were shouting invectives out of exasperation.

Here's one situation where it didn't pay to be early.

Wayward parcels

DHL should refund the amount paid by customer Adlai Amor of World Resources Institute in New York for the delayed delivery of important documents to journalist Linda Bolido. The latter was commissioned to write a report using data from the document. Due to the delay, however, she missed the deadline for submitting the report. She also missed important appointments waiting for the documents to arrive.

The parcel was sent from Washington, D.C. Dec. 28 but the recipient did not know until Jan. 9 that it had actually arrived. She called up DHL the following day and tried to impress upon them that she had a deadline to beat so she needed to get the parcel immediately. She even gave a delivery address that would be easier for them to find. DHL promised to deliver it not later than Friday, Jan. 11. All she got Friday, however, was a call from a DHL fellow asking what he should do with the package.

To make a long story short, she finally got the package Sunday afternoon. Will Bolido press charges for inconvenience, mental torture, e-mail cost and failure to meet her deadline?

Be that as it may, Bolido requested us to give credit to DHL fellows Reynaldo de Leon and Ruby Dionisio for going out of their way to locate the long-delayed parcel and have it delivered.

Speaking of wayward parcels, we received a complaint a few months ago regarding a missing card. We hope the card finally found its way to recipient Emerson Go <ego13@eudora.mail>.

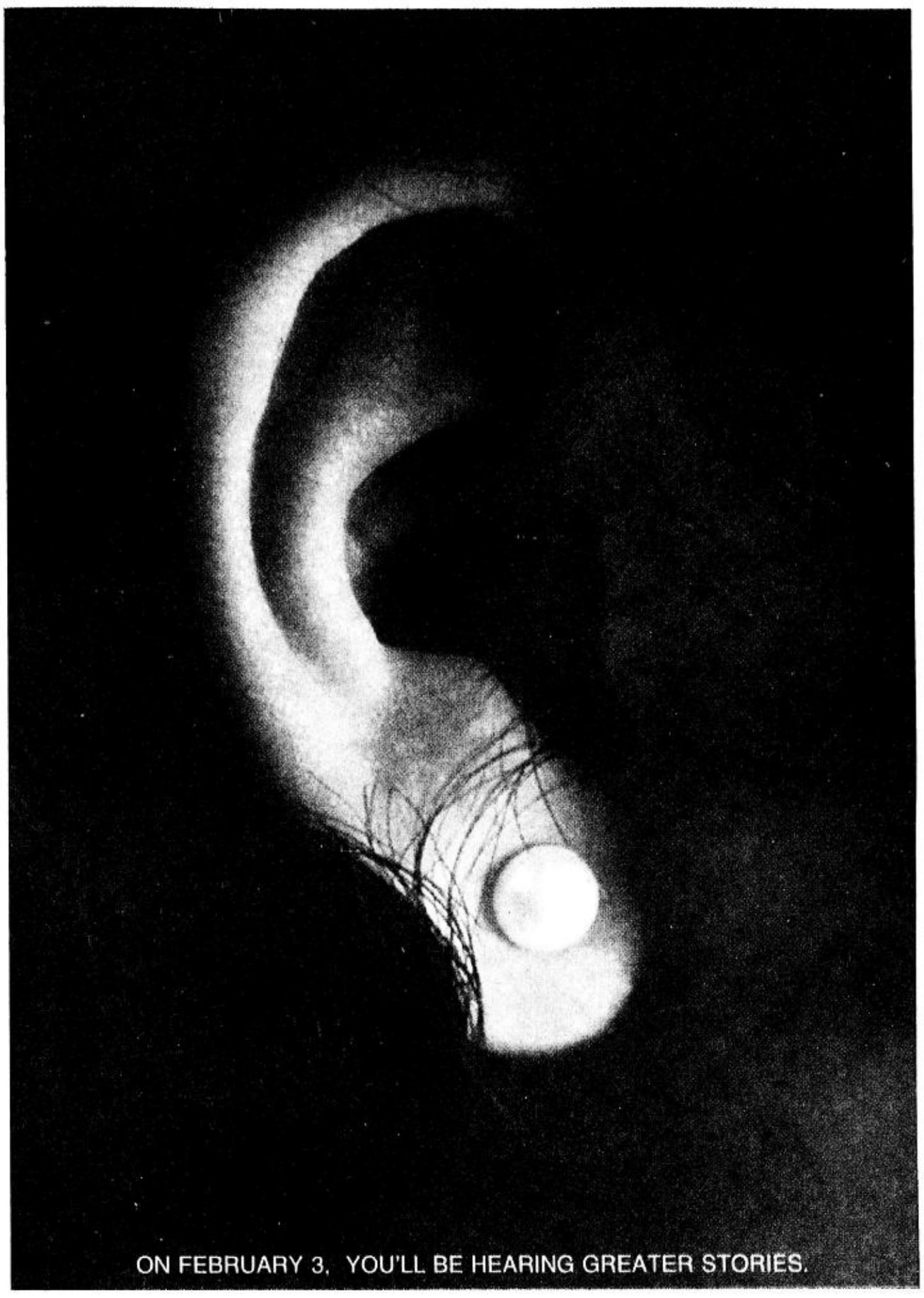
He wrote to us: "My friend Nicole Hernandez sent me a card on Sept. 19 through LBC in Rockwell. I am here on Briones Street, Cebu City. As of late October, I have not received the card. Unfortunately, my friend lost the receipt and waybill. Hope you can help trace the card."

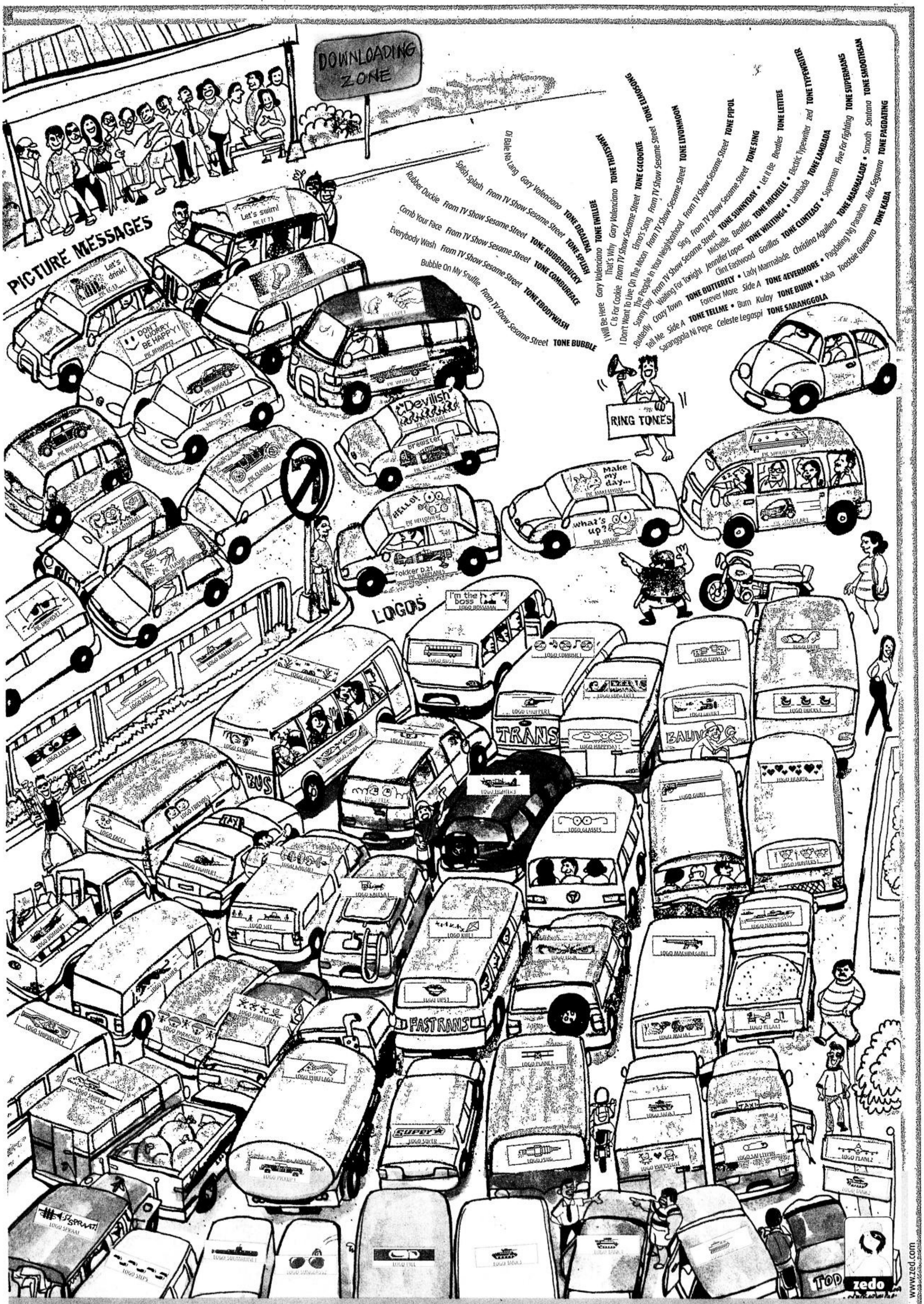
Senior citizens' privilege ignored

STEVE Ke asked, "What use is the law on senior citizen's privilege if institutions blatantly ignore it?" He wrote that his mother was confined at Metropolitan Hospital Sept. 17-22. Total hospital charges amounted to P34,773.40. When they tried to use his mother's senior citizen's card to get a discount, the cashiers reportedly refused to honor the card. Here are the billing codes: patient number is 1061029, admission number A-1061029-2, bill number F10018822 dated Sept. 22, 2001.

Helen Uy wrote: "I-Mart Drugstore, Libertad branch only gives a 5-percent discount on senior citizen's purchase. Is the 20-percent senior citizen discount for medicine negotiable?"

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph





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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Practical, helpful and inspiring resource for brides-to-be

THE COUNTRY'S top designers show a truly wide range of wedding gown styles, from sleek, modern numbers to elegant, romantic ensembles in Metro Weddings 'I do,' the bridal bible now available at leading newsstands and bookstores.

The groom is given a similar range of options, with ideas on what to wear for a wedding set in the city or in the countryside. And Manila's young women designers show what can be worn by the wedding entourage. There are also pages and pages of shoes, bags, jewelry, watches and wedding gown fabrics.

Apart from fashion, the magazine offers concrete advice on how to throw really fun bridal showers, how to lose weight in a sane way before the big date, how to use the Internet to coordinate your wedding. Gracing the cover is image model Mai Mai Cojuangco, who talks about her dream wedding, set in a garden, flowing with champagne. There's also advice on how to choose music for the wedding, a feature on offbeat places for holding the reception, great ideas on seating guests at the reception, suggestions for wedding souvenirs, and tips for toasting the bride and groom.

Some of Manila's most elegant weddings are featured for the bride-to-be to take inspiration from. Ready-made wedding and budget planners help take the uncertainty and stress away from mounting the grand event. The magazine includes comprehensive listings of wedding coordinators, Manila's top designers, photographers, caterers, cake-makers, florists, music performers and other service providers. Orchestrating the grand event is now almost as easy as saying "I do." Call ABS-CBN Publishing Circulation Department at 631-9345 or 631-3121, local 112 or 119.

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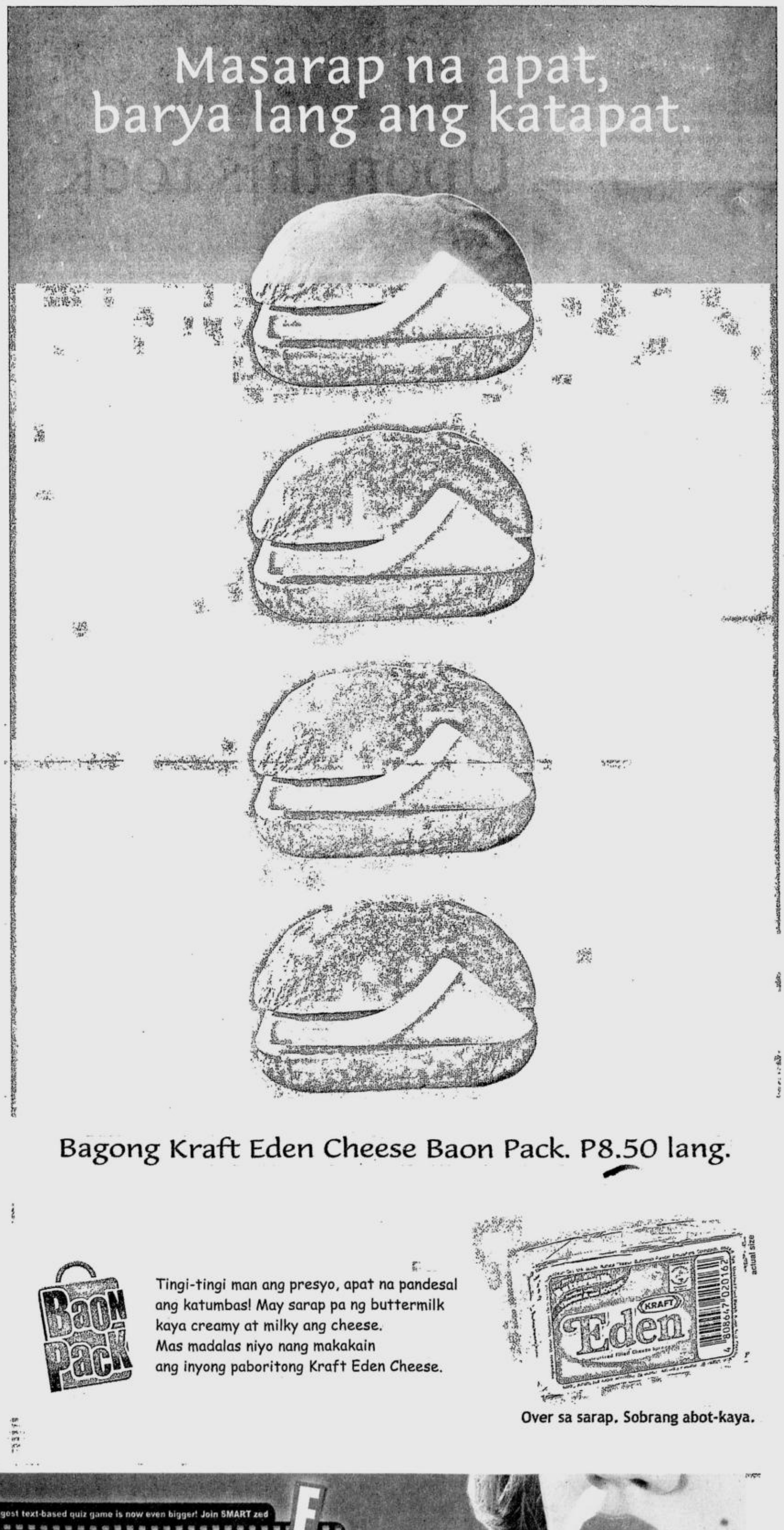
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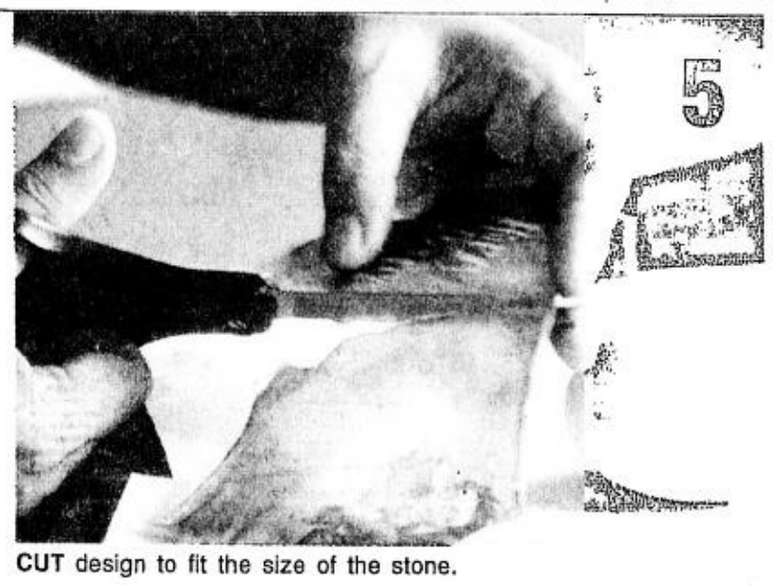
PREPARE a shallow tray with warm water and submerge the coated cutout and leave for half an hour until the water softens the paper or till the design becomes soggy.

TAKE out the film and wipe it dry with a piece of cloth.



CUT design to fit the size of the stone.

Upon this rock

CRAFT

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

A common beach or river rock can make for ideal gift

HOW would you like to put your art on a rock then "sign" your masterpiece with your handprint? Try this free nature craft pattern and project as taught to us by freelance art designer Alex Manabat.

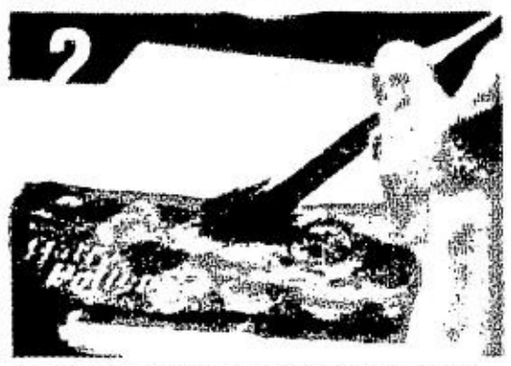
All you need is a common beach or river rock, which will be the base for your artwork. You will need flat and smooth river/beach rock. Clean rock off with water and let dry completely. You may also color the rock, if you wish.

This project is easy to do. It's like covering rock with your choice design using glue and plasticizer. Wrap and fold the design around the rock as you go and smooth down paper edges with your fingers or the sides of a pencil.

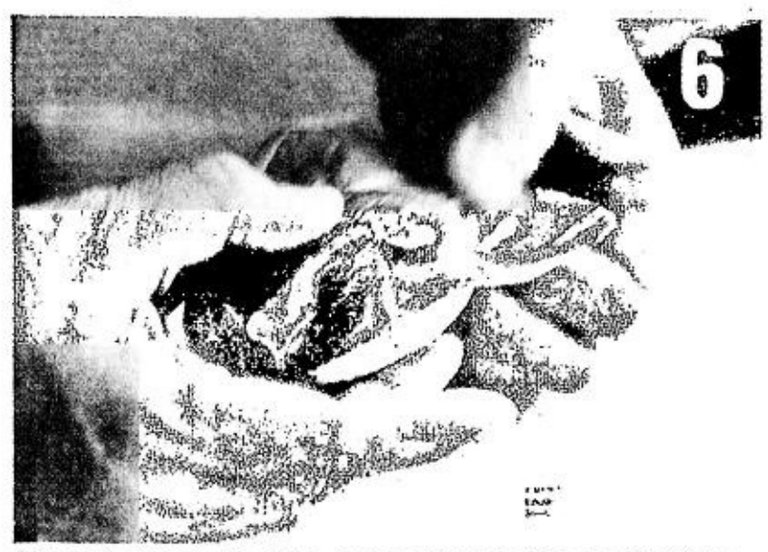
Other materials needed are a paintbrush, a plasticizer, a bond paper, picture, pencil, water, a piece of dry cloth and a pair of scissors. The plasticizer, which is non-toxic and safe, is chemically formulated by Manabat and available for P150 for 250 ml (tel. 414-3314). You can get your design or pattern from newspapers or magazines. You may also opt to use your old prints, photographs, stamps or gift-wrapping paper.

These beautifully designed rocks make ideal gifts or keepsakes.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

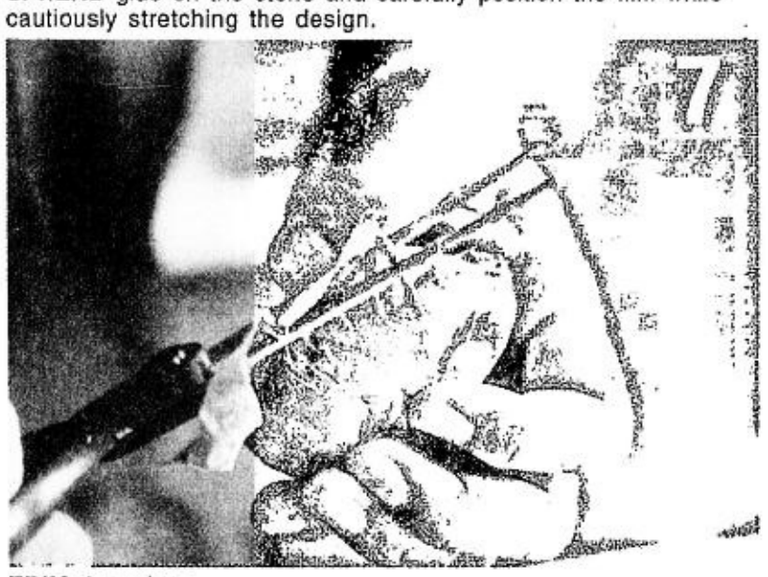


DIP paintbrush into the plasticizer and coat the pattern. Brush one way (left to right) so you have an even film. Let dry for 10 minutes. Then do it again the other way (right to left), then top to bottom and vice versa till you have 12 coatings. Let dry for 1 hour.

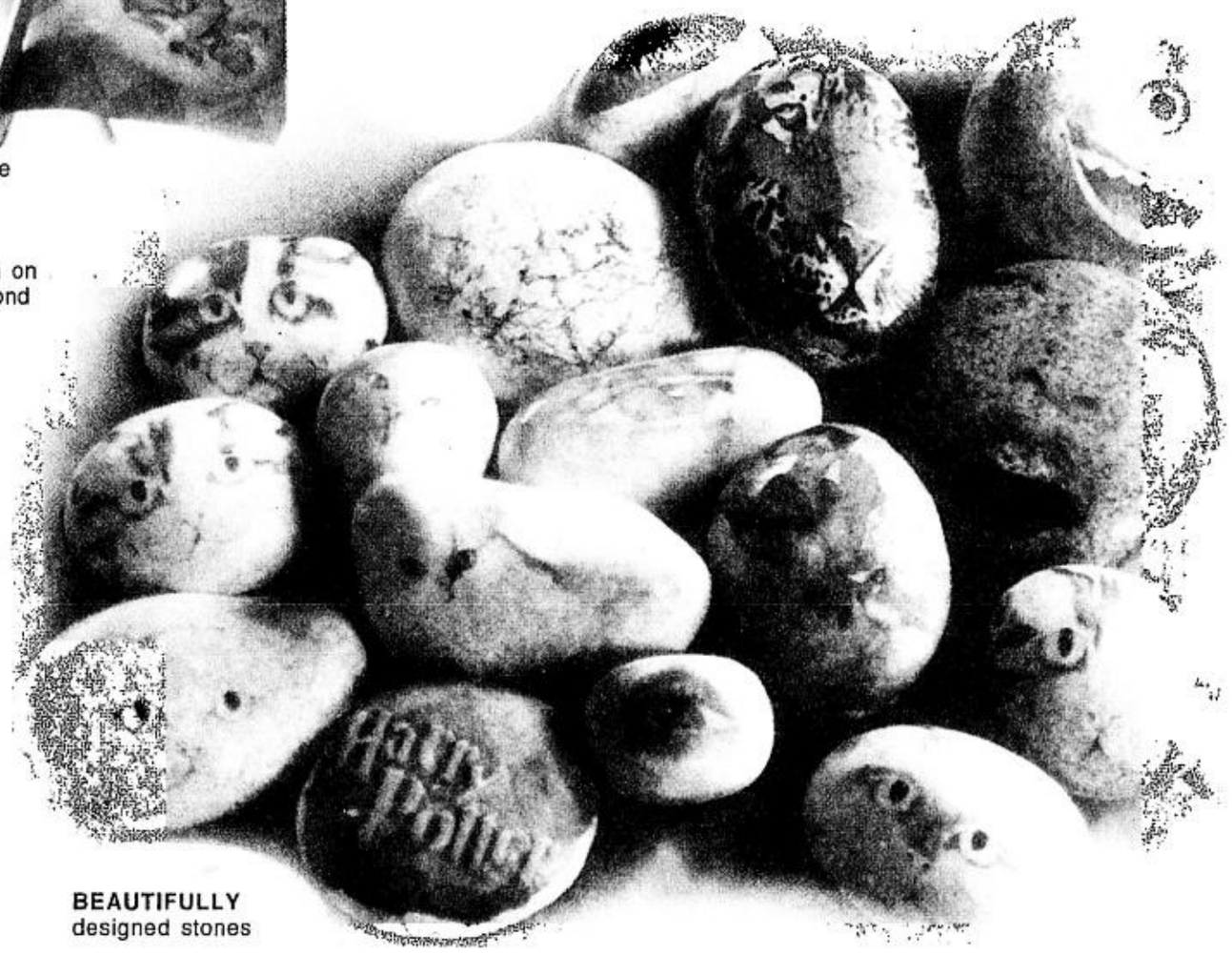


SPREAD glue on the stone and carefully position the film while cautiously stretching the design.

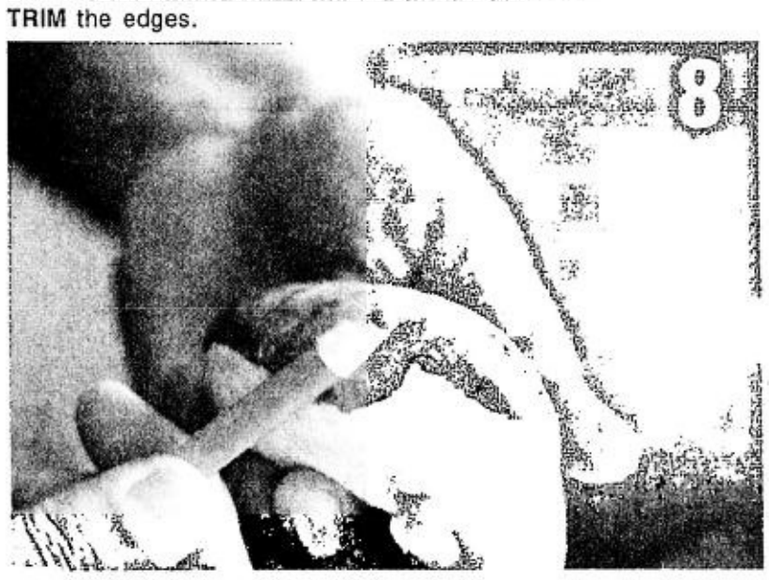
CUT your favorite picture from newspapers or magazines and place the pattern on top of a clean bond paper.



TRIM the edges.



BEAUTIFULLY designed stones



USE the sides of a pencil to firmly secure the edges.

Dress rich and contribute to a worthy cause

Regular clients are employees from nearby offices and embassies who have come to appreciate the good buys it offers

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Punzalan

IMAGINE cashmere so soft you would like to wrap it around you forever. Or a silk blouse or a wool suit that is sure to attract looks of admiration because of the exquisite tailoring.

These are just some of the luxurious pieces you can pick up for incredibly low prices at Rainbow Bazaar. Located at New Solid Building, between Buendia and Jupiter Streets, Makati City, Rainbow Bazaar was started by Marot Moreno, a member of the group Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creations based at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, where she also opened the first store.

The bazaar became a hit with Makati residents that she decided to put up another one, which would feature more high-end products.

With Petrona Lim, Tessie Castañeda, Charo and Boy Apacible and Fr. Tony Rosales as adviser, Moreno formed a foundation. The group asked Fr. Rosales, the Santuario parish priest, to call on parishioners to donate items, which would be sold to office workers.

Lim allowed Rainbow Bazaar to use for free a 120-sq m space, which rents for P20,000 a month. Donors are paid only after their contributed items are sold. A donor gets 70 percent of the price of his/her donation and the remaining 30 percent goes to the foundation. "If we won't pay people for their items, they won't give things that are still useful," says Castañeda, manager of Rainbow Bazaar.

GOLF equipment and bag, P8,000

Recently, the foundation donated P30,000 to Our Lady of Peace-St. Claire Monastery in Polomolok, South Cotabato. The money was used to buy a water tank. The beneficiary was recommended by Fr. Rosales. "We have funds to give away but we have to carefully choose our beneficiaries," Castañeda says.

Treasure trove

Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday to Friday, Rainbow opened in March. Its regular clients are employees from nearby offices and embassies who have come to appreciate the good buys it offers.

Classic clothes with innovative designs and interesting combinations of fabrics, textures and colors are not only gorgeous but, more importantly, wearable and moderately priced. Designer clothes in mint condition range from P1,000-P4,000.

Those that are slightly damaged sell for P50-P100; a Rajo Laurel jacket and skirt, P500; men's jackets and pants, P500 a set; T-shirts and blouses, P50-P100; and a Sabrina-style blouse with beads and stones, P2,000. One Inno Sotto coat was sold for P4,000.

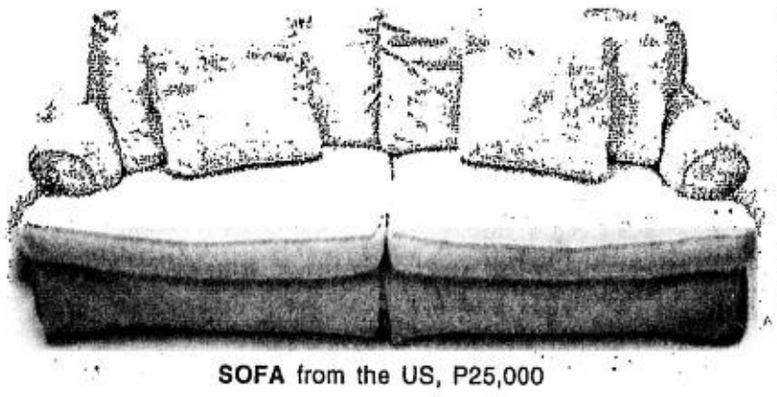
Leather pieces include geometrical purses and bags priced at P100 each while luggage items are available at P500-P600. Costlier ones—Max Mara, P1,500; Escada, P2,000; and Prada, P1,500—are still priced at only a fraction of their original values.

Shoes by Bruno Magli and Cole Hahn, P200-P500, each, and Ferragamo, P500, still look good and smell expensive as well.

A collection of earrings, bracelets, necklaces and pendants in gold, gold with pearls and silver with gold is also available. A large musical jewelry box sells for P600 and a small one for P300.

Imported perfumes are available at P250-P450 and there is a wide variety of soaps to excite the senses.

And any dining table would certainly look elegant with the silverware on offer. A "package" of silver plates, trays, tea set and casseroles worth P4,000; and two-layer silver trays, P200 each, are modern in design, with shapes to delight both the tactile and visual senses.



SOFA from the US, P25,000

DESIGNER clothes, P50-P4,000

SHOWCASE of imported books and magazines, P10-P100

ANTIQUE cabinet from Germany, P26,000

At Rainbow Bazaar, you'll find lamps and cabinets as well as a whole range of furnishings: antique cabinet made in Germany, P26,000; antique chest, P3,500; maple wood dresser, P12,000; red mahogany collapsible table, P36,000; sofa with pillows, P25,000; buffet table with drawers, P22,400; sofa chair which needs new upholstery, P6,000; brass wall candleholders, P750 and P2,000; framed prints of 1984 LA Games, P2,000 a pair; a 1978 painting of a street scene from the United States, P10,000; and Chinese paintings, P2,000 a pair.

Also available are Filipiniana books and imported home and design magazines, P10-P100; golf equipment and bag, P8,000; and beauty kit with hairbrush and toothbrush, P50.

Visit Rainbow Bazaar and get the best deals even as you help the less fortunate.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Sto. Niño de Providencia performs more miraculous healings

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

AT LEAST 10 miraculous healings were reported by Lorna Gonzales, owner of the chapel of the Sto. Niño de Providencia at 65 Pijuan St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas.

The image of the Sto. Niño has been sweating miraculous oil since Jan. 27, 1992, healing hundreds of sick people including the terminally ill. The celebration of the 10th anniversary of this miracle on Jan. 27 is a welcome assurance that the image will continue to heal the sick.

Ten priests have so far confirmed their participation in anointing the sick with the oil. They are Fr. Fred Reyes, Fr. Pio Lumibao, O.S.B., Fr. Basil Apostol, O.S.B., Fr. Aloy Maranan, O.S.B., Fr. Lari Abaco and priests from the provinces such as Fr. Joseph Tashner, S.V.D., chaplain of MCE Convent in La Union; Fr. William Santiago of Naga City, Fr. Romy Mendoza of Cuenca, Batangas and Fr. Joe Castañeda of Batangas City. Fr. Joseph Sou, an Indonesian priest, will also attend.

Participating in planning for the celebration are Bro. Dodong de Castro, engineer Edwin Cuidad and Hiyasmin Pacaigue. A concelebrated Mass will be held at the parish church in BF Resort Village with Fr. Jerry Habunal, parish priest, as main celebrant. A motorcade at 2:45 p.m. will bring the image from the chapel to the church. However, people are expected to go to the chapel for the adoration of the Sto. Niño as early as 7 a.m.

The healing of Philippe Laurente

The youngest son of Dr. Nanette Laurente of Ayala Alabang was 4 months old when he was diagnosed with craniosynostosis, a condition wherein the soft spot on the baby's head closes early. He needed immediate operation to create a space for the brain to grow by removing a portion of the skull bone that closed.

STO. Niño de Providencia

The parents of Philippe decided to have the surgery done in the United States. Dr. Laurente visited the chapel of the Sto. Niño de Providencia once and asked fervently that they get their US visas. In the chapel was Bert Mondragon who was changing the clothes of the Niño.

The visa applications were denied, but the Laurentes decided to send the CT scan plates anyway to the US surgeon who was supposed to perform the operation. To their surprise, the American surgeon found that the baby was normal and there was no need for an operation. Another American surgeon, who was consulted, gave the same opinion. Dr. Laurente is thanking the Sto. Niño for the healing of her son.

Other miraculous healings

Here are more healings by the Sto. Niño reported by Lorna Gonzales: Joshua Hilario, 10 years old, of Davao City, a mysterious disease that gave him high fever and convulsions; Tina Cabanos of Quezon City, a thickened endometrium that was causing excessive bleeding; baby Jaime Ruel Solante of Davao City, a disorder of the heart's main artery; Paz Abad of QC, cancer of the nasopharynx; Francis Dajoyag, 3, who could not speak, but can now read; Vicente Lebrilla, a cancerous mole at the back of his thigh; and Dr. Mila Pamalaon of QC, hemorroidectomy. Justin Niña Lao of Manila was a gift to Josmar and Hanzel Lao who could not have a child. Hanzel was able to conceive later.

These people were healed or their prayers answered because of their faith. Visit the chapel if you haven't been there yet and pray to the Sto. Niño de Providencia. Be like a child and talk to Him. He will help you.

Reaching out to the depressed

DEPRESSION is also a chemical imbalance, according to Connie Roceles who has organized with friends the I Empathize group to help formerly depressed men and women return to normal life.

With the help of Eli-Lilly Pharmaceuticals, a meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Jan. 30, at the pharmaceuticals offices on the Corporate Center, Robinsons Galleria. Dr. Robert Buenaventura will be guest speaker. Those interested may call Connie at 545-3017.

Buling-Buling in Pandacan

ON THE EVE of the fiesta of the Sto. Niño de Pandacan yesterday, devotees danced the *buling-buling*, an ancient ritual to honor the Child Jesus.

Today, the feast of the Sto. Niño, people will flock to Pandacan and attend Masses and the procession. Pol Capistrano, who did a research on the image, said it dated back to the 17th century when the image was found in a well by children.

The Sto. Niño was enshrined in a makeshift chapel, which became the present church. Many miracles are attributed to the miraculous image. Both Catholics and Aglipayans, young and old, rich and poor, venerate the Sto. Niño de Pandacan.

Sto. Niño de Tondo

OUR stories on the Sto. Niño would not be complete if we don't mention the Tondo Parish Church. The parish priest, Msgr. Emmanuel Sunga, is a very inspiring homilist.

The late Tita Saling Aliño used to tell me that she dedicated her son Manly to the Sto. Niño de Tondo when he was still a boy. She would bring Manly, who was sickly as a child, to the fiesta of the Sto. Niño. The boy became healthy. He is now running the Viva Sto. Niño store on Tayuman Street, Sta. Cruz.

CWL of Paco Parish

THE CATHOLIC Women's League of Paco Parish is offering free cosmetology and sewing courses in the summer for poor women who would like to be self-supporting. Sol Alturas Yu, CWL president, said many of the graduates of the free courses were now working abroad as stylists or sewers.

The CWL continues to help the poor in the parish. Every Christmas it gives 15 sacks of rice, which the parish center distributes in small sacks of 5 kg to the poor.

Helping Tita Sol in the work are Ching Sangalang, Baby Uy, Tess Sioson, Gloria del Rosario, Perla Lacsa, Norma Chu, Dedet de Guzman, Viring Grecia, Letty Cruz, Melly Orosa, among others.

Friends of Matinloc

FRIENDS of Matinloc is how devotees of Our Lady of Matinloc, patroness of Matinloc, Palawan, call themselves. The Friends have produced a CD titled "Sa Ating Paglalakbay," featuring Marian songs and other religious hymns, both traditional and modern, sung by some priests from Palawan. We have Fr. Eddie Penafiel of El Nido, Fr. Greg Igig of Bataraza and Fr. Nito Bundac of Sofronio Española.

The musical director of the Tiples de Sto. Domingo, Eugene de los Santos, is the featured tenor, while Grace Quioyo is the musical arranger. Accompanist is soprano Teresita Fernandez-Laumond. Her two daughters also sing.

Tom Barners wrote:

"We plan to distribute the albums in exchange for donations with proceeds (used) for the benefit of the evangelization program of the Vicariate of Palawan. It is available in single albums for P300 each and double albums with minus-one for P500 each. It is available at the office of His Excellency, the Most Rev. Bishop Pedro D. Arigo, at the Bishop's Residence in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, tel. (048) 433-2568, or at the Javlon International Office at the 4/F Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, tel. 817-7506.

Pilgrimage to Marian shrines

CATHOLIC Travel Service is organizing a pilgrimage to Marian shrines in Europe with Fr. Teofilo Rustia as chaplain. Included in the tour are Lourdes, Nevers in France; Zaragoza, Madrid, Segovia, Sevilla and Salamanca in Spain; Fatima and Lisbon in Portugal; Santarem and Rome in Italy. Departure is Feb. 21. Arrival in Manila is March 10. Those interested may call Elenita Grande at (0918) 729-4618 or 631-9571.

Seminarian needs help

SEMINARIAN Ronald Aberas of the St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Aparri needs financial help to be able to move to theology. Those interested to help him may write him at his home address: Barangay 11, 11 A.G. Tupaz St., Laoag City or call (0917) 379-7399. Thank you for your kindness.

CWL members of the Paco Parish Church: Baby Uy, Tess Sioson, Gloria del Rosario, Perla Lacsa, Norma Chu, Dedet de Guzman, Viring Grecia, Letty Cruz, Melly Orosa and Sol Alturas Yu

Old typewriter needed

I NEED to borrow an old portable typewriter for the use of the person translating the Spanish book "Sonria de la Virgen de Buen Suceso" into English. From the translation, I'll make a short synopsis of the origin of the devotion in Spain and the early miracles. Those who wish to help may beep me at Easy Call 141-020543.

Alumni homecoming at UST seminary

ALUMNI of the UST Central Seminary will hold their homecoming on Jan. 24-25 at the Central Seminary. Call Rev. Giovanni Argarin at 731-0558.

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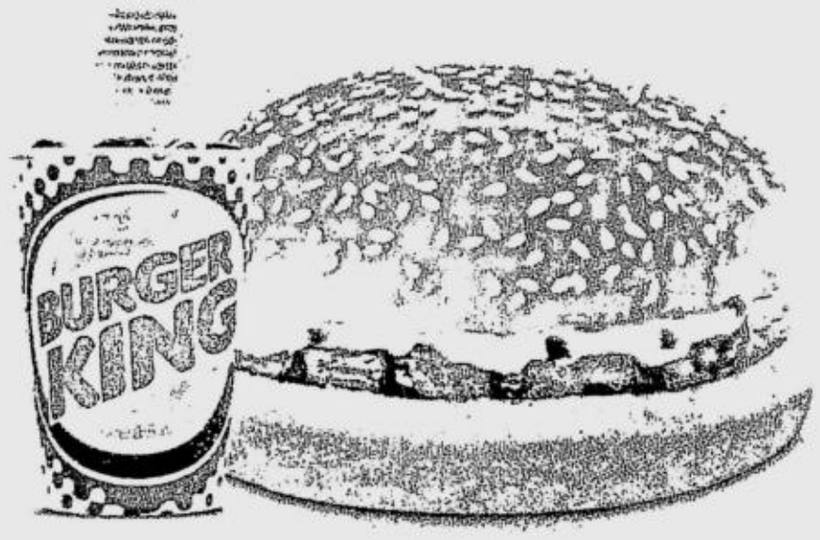

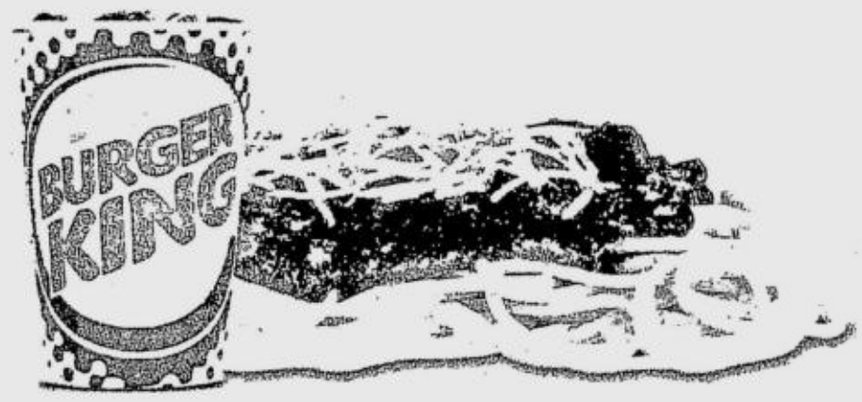

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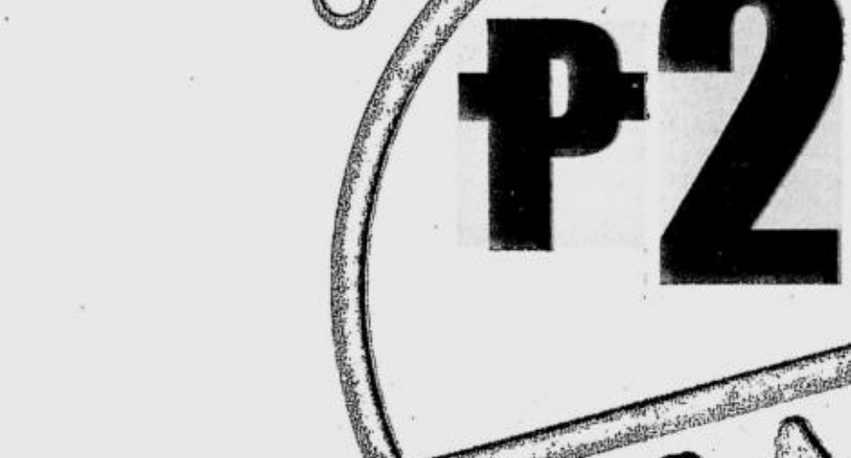

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WITH THE PARENTS, Celine Bautista, Baby Maralit, Ed Maralit and Noel Bautista

In a novel twist, the newlyweds released a flock of doves as they stepped out of the church after the nuptial Mass.

JAY-JAY and Apple Bautista with their secondary sponsors Chin-chin Bautista, Catherine Garcia, Rowena Yapyuco and Lalaine Maralit. Behind are Kim Amurao, John Paul Maralit, Joel Samaco and George Santayana.

THE BRIDE'S grandma, Doña Pinang Saldaña

Song-filled wedding caps nine-year romance

By Donnie C. Ramirez

BEAUTIFUL music filled the air when Noel "Jay-Jay" Bautista Jr. married Joanna "Apple" Maralit at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park. Songs of love and romance punctuated the solemn rites and played in the background during the scintillating dinner reception that followed at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Sweethearts for nine solid years, Jay-Jay and Apple made their matrimonial vows before Msgr. Claro Matt Garcia, who delivered a touching homily. Aureo Alonzo designed the groom's bamboo-patterned barong tagalog and the bride's skin-colored gossamer gown with a fully embroidered cathedral train. She wore a diamond-and-pearl-encrusted headdress.

The newlyweds' fashionable moms, Celine Saldaña-Bautista and Baby Garcia-Maralit, were both in pink, while their husbands, Noel Bautista and Ed Maralit, looked like turn-of-the-century *ilustrados* in their *jusi barong*.

The wedding entourage was so long it nearly occupied the entire length of the church's center aisle. Principal sponsors were Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin, the House Speaker's wife Gina de Venecia, DHL top gun Rod Feliciano, Dr. Elenita Binay, Benny Ricafort, Imelda Cojuangco, Jose Mari Franco, Tereret Liboro, Enrique "Nene" Rojas, Lulu Santayana, lawyer Juan Andres Bautista, Lee Yen-Yen, Dr. Jack Bautista, Beth Encarnacion, Alfredo Chua, Grace Hagamann, Florencio Aldana, Cynthia Yapyuco, Carlos Garcia and Estrellita Castillo.

The secondary sponsors, all dressed in celadon green outfits, included the groom's brother Con-Con Bautista as best man; Gizelle Santayana, maid of honor; John Maralit, George Santayana, Angelo David and Joel Samaco, groomsmen; and Cheryl Bautista, Catherine Garcia, Lalaine Maralit and Rowena Yapyuco, bridesmaids. The groom's pretty sister-in-law Sheba Bautista was the lector.

In a novel twist, the newlyweds released a flock of doves as they stepped out of the church after the nuptial Mass. A dazzling fireworks display followed. The wedding party then proceeded to Makati Shangri-La where cocktails were served at the foyer prior to the dinner. Wedding coordinator Chiqui Samson expertly handled the arrangements, while Tony Rodriguez did the floral décor, using hundreds of white, green and pink liliums and roses. The towering five-tiered fondant cake with frosted green apples, grapes and pink rose candles was created by Soraya Chua. One of the favors hidden in the cake was a diamond ring that was pulled by the bride's friend Angela Grey.

Performers who filled Jay-Jay and Apple's big moment with heartwarming music included tenor Anthony Dee, soprano Bernadette Mandap, the LSJ String Ensemble, which did a stirring version of "The Prayer," musical director Julie Mendoza, baritone Vladimir Valera, Nonoy Lopez's ballroom band and Savannah Moon's disco mobile.

Now back from their honeymoon in picture-perfect Phuket in Thailand, the newlyweds are making their home in Acropolis, QC. Jay-Jay will continue to help manage his family's construction and waste-management businesses, while Apple will resume her work at Chinatrust Bank.

A baby is now a work-in-progress. Congratulations!

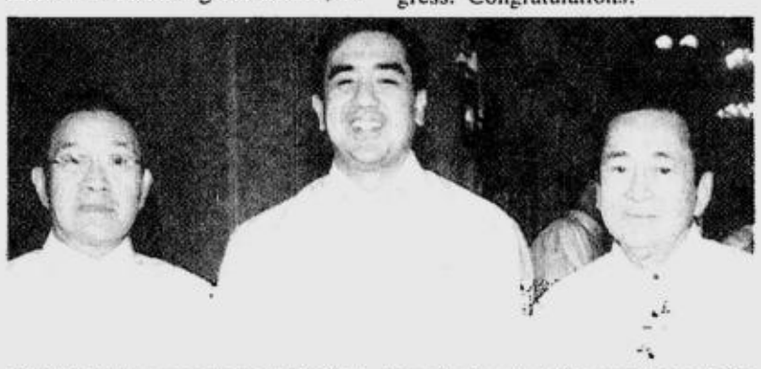
NEWLYWEDS Apple and Jay-Jay Bautista Jr.

FLOWER girls Bianca Ramos, Bianca Garcia, Ana Dominique Deang, Jaendra Manalo and Cheska Rodrigo

NINANGS Lulu Santayana, Lee Yen-Yen and Beth Encarnacion

PRINCIPAL sponsors Gina de Venecia, Dr. Elenita Binay, Imelda Cojuangco and Tereret Liboro

NINONGS Jose Mari Franco, Benny Ricafort, Rod Feliciano and Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin



PRINCIPAL sponsors Jack Bautista, Juan Andres Bautista and Nene Rojas

PRINCIPAL sponsors Lilith Castillo, Rowena Yapyuco and Grace Hagamann

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings, engagements and debuts. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

ZAIDE-ROXAS

Jean-Louis A. Zaide and **Patricia Louise T. Roxas** were married Dec. 8 at the National Shrine of St. Michael and the Archangels. Reception followed at Barbara's Restaurant. The groom is the son of **Louis Rene** and **Ma. Luisa Zaide**, while the bride is the daughter of **Hermogenes** and **Miriam Roxas**.

TRINIDAD-PABILONIA

Nilo Trinidad, son of **Alberto** and **Jessie Trinidad**, will exchange vows with **Ethel Pabilonia**, daughter of **Eliseo** and **Zenaida Pabilonia**, on Jan. 26 at the Our Lady of Maulawin (Philippine Independent Church) in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Reception will follow at Rapids Hotel in Pagsanjan.

The bride will wear a **Donnie Delima** beige duchess satin, off-shoulder, princess-cut with pearls, glass beads and spangles. Her entourage will don ensembles in a lavander motif.

VALERO-ADVINCULA

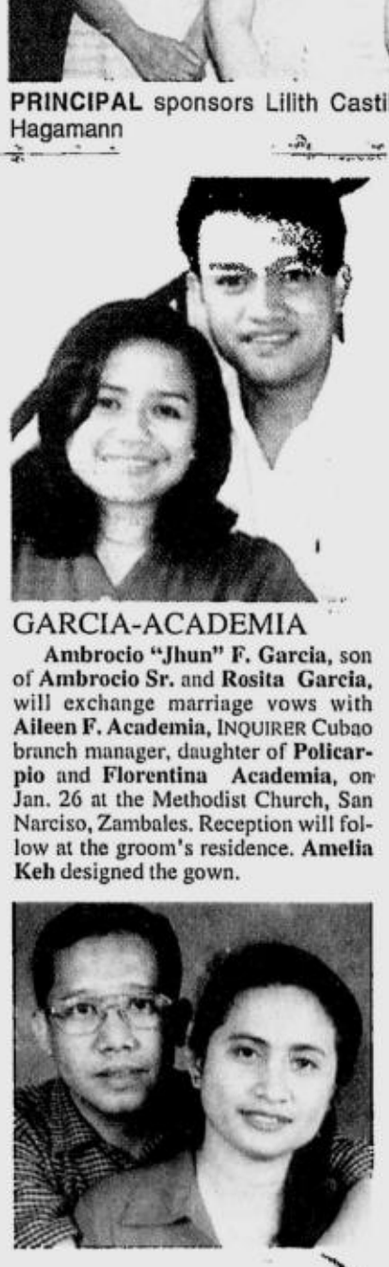
Marcos Valero, son of **Amparo Valero**, ties the knot with **Aileen Margaret Advincula**, daughter of **Jose Advincula** and **Lumen Zamora**, today at The Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. The bride wears a gown by **Gigi B. del Rosario**, using back satin and silk organza with intricate floral design of rhinetones and Swarovski crystals. The cake is by **Heny Sison**. Dinner reception follows at The Traders Hotel Ballroom.

GO DEBUT

Genevie Go celebrated her 18th birthday on Jan. 19 at Patio Victoria, Intramuros, Manila. She is a BS Biology Sophomore at De La Salle University.

GARCIA-ACADEMIA

Ambrocio "Jhun" F. Garcia, son of **Ambrocio Sr.** and **Rosita Garcia**, will exchange marriage vows with **Aileen F. Academia**, INQUIRER Cubao branch manager, daughter of **Policarpio** and **Florentina Academia**, on Jan. 26 at the Methodist Church, San Narciso, Zambales. Reception will follow at the groom's residence. **Amelia Keh** designed the gown.



AGUIMBAG-REBUSTILLO

Primovic "Vic" R. Aguimbag and **Ma. Emma C. Rebustillo** will exchange "I dos" on Jan. 26 at the Manila Cathedral. Vic is the son of **Alfonso** and **Elpidia Aguimbag** while Emma is the daughter of **Luis** and **Rosalina Rebustillo**. Reception will take place at Puerta Real Garden in Intramuros, Manila. Emma's gown and the entourage's were created by **Juanito "June" Marcelino** of June Collezione.

SIAPNO-AGUSTIN

Orville Siapno, son of Judge **Orlando Ana F. Siapno** and lawyer **Minerva C. Siapno**, will exchange marriage vows with **Angel Agustin**, daughter of **Rosario Cunanan vda. de Agustin**, on Jan. 26 at San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, QC.

The bride will wear an off-shoulder *piña* gown from Lumban, Laguna.

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A large and established American Multinational Consumer company is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

FINANCE

Accounts Payable Accountant (AP)
- Male/Female, 23-35 years old;
- Accounting graduate, preferably a CPA;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Can work under minimum supervision, keen on details and possesses high analytical skills;
- With strong working experience in a medium to large manufacturing firm.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Systems Analyst (SAN)
- Male/Female, not over 35 years old;
- Graduate of Accounting, Engineering, Computer Science or other related courses;
- With experience in any of the following:
  - MS-Access
  - SQL
  - Datawarehousing
  - Business Intelligence Systems (Cognos, Business Objects, etc.)
  - ERP Software (BPCS, JDE, PRISM, SAP etc.)
- Highly motivated, fast-tracker, works well under pressure;
- Good command of the English language.

OPERATIONS

Quality Assurance Analysts (QAA)
- Male/Female, not over 35 years old;
- Graduate of Food Science, Engineering courses;
- At least 2 years experience in food, food processing and/or packaged food manufacturing;
- Knowledgeable in quality systems and system documentation;
- Effective oral and written communication skills;
- Knowledgeable in MS applications.

Draftsman (D)
- Male, not over 35 years old;
- Engineering course graduate;
- Knowledgeable in mechanical drafting/industrial design or equivalent;
- Knowledgeable in CAD software applications for plans and drawings;
- Computer literate and has good oral and written communication skills.

PPIC Analyst (PA)
- Male, not over 35 years old;
- College graduate, preferably with a degree in Mechanical Engineering/ Industrial Engineering/Chemical Engineering/Computer Science
- At least one (1) year experience in a manufacturing set-up;
- Has knowledge in materials requirement planning;
- Good analytical skills; computer literate.

MARKETING

Promotions Services Manager (PSM)
- Male/Female, not over 40 years old;
- College graduate, preferably with a degree in Business or Marketing Management; MBA an advantage;
- At least 3 years experience in Brand Management or Sales in a multinational, fast-moving consumer goods company;
- Background in project management, food and/or beverage marketing, sales experience will be advantageous;
- Good interpersonal and organization skills;
- Must be willing to travel within the country to attend meetings and monitor activities.

Food Services Product Manager (FSPM)
- Male/Female, not over 40 years old;
- College graduate, preferably with a degree in Business, Marketing Management or Economics;
- At least 3 years experience in Brand Management preferably in a multinational company;
- Experience in food services or sales will be an advantage;
- Must possess sharp analytical and interpersonal skills.

Department Secretary (DS-M)
- Female, not over 25-30 years old;
- College graduate, preferably four-year secretarial course or its equivalent;
- At least 3 years work as secretary in a multinational company;
- Systematic and organized; good oral and written communication skills;
- Knowledgeable in MS application, average typing speed of 60 wpm;
- Very knowlegeable in the preparation of presentation charts;
- Can handle multiple tasks and report to 3 managers;
- Willing to work long hours;
- Pleasing personality and has strong interpersonal skills.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Product Development Technologist (PDT)
- Male/Female, 23-35 years old;
- Graduate of BS Food Technology, Chemical Engineering or Chemistry;
- Familiar with product development protocols;
- General understanding of food ingredients and their functionality;
- Ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously;
- Strong analytical skills and creativity;
- Effective oral and written communication skills;
- Knowledgeable in MS applications.

Department Secretary (DS-R)
- Female, not over 25-30 years old;
- College graduate, preferably four-year secretarial course or its equivalent;
- At least 5 years solid experience in secretarial work, records management and office administration;
- Good oral and written communication skills;
- Proficient in MS Office 2000 applications.

HUMAN RESOURCE

HR Associate - Communications (HRA-C)
- Male or female, not over 30 years old;
- College graduate, major in Journalism or Communication Arts;
- At least 3 years work experience as a writer in a known publication or public relations firm;
- Working knowledge of corporate relations;
- Excellent writing skills with strong oral English communication skills;
- Proficient in MS Office 2000 applications.

HR Associate - Employee Relations (HRA-ER)
- Male or female, not over 30 years old;
- College graduate, major in Psychology, Business Administration or Industrial Engineering;
- At least 5 years work experience in labor relations with 2 years in a supervisory capacity;
- Working knowledge of labor laws and collective bargaining negotiation and implementation;
- Very high interpersonal relations skills with strong English and Pilipino verbal and written communications skills;
- Energetic and dynamic; must be able to relate with all levels of employees.

Kindly send your comprehensive resumé (indicating your last salary, contact numbers, and the position code) together with a copy of your transcript of records through:

(a) Email : **HRPHILS@Kraftasia.com**
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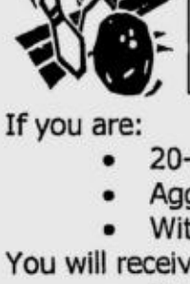

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Or call 931-2107, 951-3333 loc. 107/217 look for Boots, Deunice or Liz.

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Interested applicants may send in their résumés with colored photo to:

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- With excellent communication skills

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- College graduate with good communication skills
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- Computer literate
- Pleasing personality

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Job Function:
- ☑ Responsible for maintaining, managing and expanding the organization's business relationships with existing customers and exploring new business opportunities with the end view of delivering the sales targets established for the year.

Requirements:
- ☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of any 4 year course preferably in Business Administration, Marketing, Electronics & Communications Engineering or Computer Science
- ☑ Must have at least 2 years sales experience
- ☑ Excellent customer service orientation and positive sales attitude
- ☑ Ability to deal with people at all levels
- ☑ Good communication skills
- ☑ Dynamic, creative, assertive, energetic and results-driven

CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR

Job Function:
- ☑ Directly supervise the day to day operations of the Call Center covering the following groups: Operator and Telex services, Inbound and Outbound Groups.

Requirements:
- ☑ Ideal candidate must have at least two years experience as a Call Center Supervisor preferably in a Telecom company
- ☑ With mastery of call center operations
- ☑ With knowledge on Customer Management Systems preferably ICMS
- ☑ Must possess good communication skills
- ☑ Customer friendly and flexible

TELEMARKETERS

Job Function:
- ☑ Conducts sales, promotions and collection-related callouts to help boost sales and facilitate collection; and
- ☑ Provides Customer Feedback on all customer complaints encountered and confirms customer satisfaction to the services provided.

Requirements:
- ☑ Ideal candidate must have at least one year experience as a Telemarketer preferably in a Telecom company or Call Center
- ☑ With knowledge on Customer Management Systems preferably ICMS
- ☑ Must possess good communication skills
- ☑ Good voice quality and with good diction
- ☑ Customer friendly, dependable, strong sense of commitment and responsibility, highly flexible
- ☑ Computer literate

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The Vice President
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(please indicate the position title you are applying for)

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Entry Level – Engineer 2
- male
- below 30 yrs old
- Licensed Engineer
- with relevant experience in electronic assembly factory
- hardworking and fast learner

ACCOUNTING CLERK
Entry Level – Staff 1
- female
- below 26 yrs old
- Accounting graduate
- with at least 1 yr experience
- hardworking and honest
- computer literate

INTERPRETER/ HR ASSISTANT
Entry Level – Supervisor
- female
- below 30 yrs old
- university graduate, preferably Psychology
- proficient in Japanese language
- with relevant experience in HR works
- honest and trustworthy

PRODUCTION ENGINEER
Entry Level – Enginner 1
- female, Engineering graduate, preferably ECE
- with or without experience
- Fresh grad or graduating student this March

MACHINE TECHNICIAN
Entry Level – Technician
- female, vocational graduate or Engineering undergraduate
- with 1 year relevant experience

Interested applicants may submit their letter of application, detailed resume, with 2X2 photo, copies of transcript of records and other relevant documents to:

KATOLEC PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
103 East Main Avenue, Special Export Processing Zone
Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna
or email to
aqt@katolec.com.ph
or
hr@katolec.com.ph

A leading Printing & Publishing Company urgently requires

1. TELEPHONE OPERATORS - (5)

Excellent knowledge of English language and computer operations. Good telephone manners. Age below 25 years.

2. SALES EXECUTIVES (M/F) - (6)

Candidate should be a presentable, smart young graduate with an outgoing personality and flair for sales, proficient in written and spoken English. And should have a minimum experience of 3 years in a Printing Press or Advertising Agency in a similar capacity. Past experience in space selling will be an advantage. Age below 25 years.

3. PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR - (1)

Should have a Degree or Diploma in Printing Technology, a minimum experience of 6 years in a large Printing Press and be well exposed to all printing and finishing processes, scheduling, supervising and quality control. Well organized, the candidate should be able to handle day-to-day operations of a large Printing Press. Age below 30 years.

4. COMPUTER GRAPHIC DESIGNERS - (3)

With a Degree or Diploma in Commercial Art, the candidate should be Macintosh savvy, proficient in latest designing & publishing softwares and have a distinct flair for designing. Experience in designing and pre-press operations, colour separations, scanning, image manipulation and retouching is necessary.

5. SCANNER OPERATOR - (1)

Should have at least a Diploma in Printing Technology or equivalent, wide working experience on high-end drum & flatbed scanners and be proficient in pre-press operations like scanning, image manipulation, retouching etc.

Post no. 4 & 5 should have minimum of 5 years experience in a similar post at the large commercial Printing Press / Advertising Agency. Age below 28 years.

6. MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL ENGINEER - (1)

Should be a Degree/Diploma holder in Mechanical/Electrical Engineering. Thorough knowledge of repairing/maintaining Japanese and German offset machines and finishing equipment is a must. Minimum experience of 5 years is necessary.

7. FOUR/FIVE COLOUR SHEETFED OFFSET PRINTERS - (2)

8. WEB OFFSET PRINTERS - (2)

Sheetfed printers should have a Diploma/ITI Certificate in Printing Technology and be well experienced in process and special colour printing. Web Offset Printer should have experience in Newspaper and bookwork printing as well as thorough knowledge of colour. A minimum of 4 years experience in a similar post at a large Printing Press is essential. Age below 30 years.

9. BOOK BINDERS - (5)

Should have a Diploma/ITI Course in Printing Technology and be manually skilled. Well experienced in quality binding and finishing work, the candidate should be able to handle modern binding machinery as well as manual work. A minimum of 3 years of experience is essential. Age below 30 years.

Please apply with detailed bio-data along with qualification and experience certificates, a copy of the passport and 2 photographs and have a chance to be trained abroad.

Mail to:

CHAT BONIFACIO
W-908, 9th Floor, West Tower
Stock Exchange Centre
Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City 1605

"WE ARE GROWING-2002"

"When the going gets **TOUGH** the **TOUGH** gets *going*"

With this phrase in mind and this years positive achievements of the group inspite of the prevailing economic condition, we want to prepare ourselves for the coming "TOUGH" but brighter outlook ahead.

A. Business Development Officer (code : BDO #01)
- Male,Female not more than 25 years old With irresistible personality.
- Willing to be trained - fast learner.

B. Sales & Mktg. Manager (code : ASI#01)
- Male,Female not more than 32 years of age.
- Strong willed, responsible and a born – LEADER.
- Proven impressive sales track record. Known & regarded as one of the best in the industry.

OTHER OPENINGS:
- (Interior) Design Consultant (Code DSG#01)
- Admin. Assistant (Code AA#01)
- Sales Assistant (Code SA#01)

If you're **tough enough**, send or mail comprehensive resume & 2 pcs. 2x2 pictures at the address below :

ACCENT SYSTEMS, INC.
c/o MK-78 (code: ____)
Philippine Daily Inquirer G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City

Note: Indicate outside the envelope position code #.

ARCHON MANPOWER RESOURCES

WE NEED YOU NOW!

A progressively known Japanese multinational company is in immediate need of the following staff member:

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

The applicant must be:
1. An Accounting graduate
2. Familiar with cost control
3. Can monitor the book keeping, tax matters, cash flow ledger, bookkeeping, financial cash flow, and cash position of the company
4. Computer literate
5. Up to date with tax laws and BIR Regulations
6. Has a minimum of 3 years working experience

For interested applicants, please e-mail your comprehensive resumé with picture to **linchrd@info.com.ph** or to **agnes_altea@hotmail.com**.

Send or apply personally at:

44A Zeta II Building
191 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City

Where you find the best.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE

An International Service Company is looking for

Network Administrator/ Programmer

(Female Candidates Only)

THE POSITION HAS THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- Advanced knowledge of Windows 2000 Server, Professional, and Linux (Red Hat distribution)
- Ability to implement and administer a network using Windows Active Directory for Windows 2000 Server and Professional OS
- Knowledge of database programming and administration using SQL for Windows, Access, and MySQL for Linux.
- Knowledge of PHP and its implementation on the company's website
- Advanced knowledge of Internet and Telecommunication technologies and the ability to implement these into the network.
- Capacity for learning new technologies that will enhance the business' ability to deliver work faster and more accurately.
- Willing to work on US time
- Must have good knowledge of PC Hardware and be able to diagnose and repair or troubleshoot PCs.
- Above Average Communication skills in English.
- Aptitude for learning new software and technology that is relevant to the operations of the company.

The following skills will influence the hiring decision:

- Advanced skills in Crystal Reports;
- Advanced user knowledge of MS Outlook

Please apply with the following: *Resumé with a short narrative of previous job responsibilities, transcript of records, Copy of Exams or certifications, 2x2 photo, Contact address and phone number (your e-mail address if applicable), a copy of your most recent payslip, a cut out copy of this ad.*

Send requirements to:

The Personnel Officer, P.O. Box # 14233
Ortigas Center Post Office
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1605

You may also e-mail requirements to personnel@msocorporation.com

ASSOCIATE ENGINEER

- Graduate of BS ECE or COE Batch 2001/2002
- Should possess leadership qualities, team-player, and hardworking
- Male or Female
- Age limit is 23

WAREHOUSE GROUP LEADER

- Graduate of Industrial Engineering
- At least 1 year experience in warehousing and packing operations
- Must display effective planning and organizing skills
- Must have the ability to lead and motivate people
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Male, age range is 24 - 32

COMPANY NURSE

- Will be responsible for the curative, palliative, preventive, rehabilitative and administrative services of employees' welfare
- Graduate of BS Nursing, licensed
- Must be service-oriented and willing to work on shifts
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, age limit is 28

HRD ASSISTANTS

- Will be assigned either in background checking or training
- Graduates of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- With or without experience
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Male or female, age limit is 24

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Business Administration
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be willing to work on shifts
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Male, age limit is 23

ISO 9002 SGS
ISO 14001 SGS

Fujitsu Computer Products is a leading manufacturer of hard disk drives and magneto-resistive heads. After almost six years of commercial operations, we now have 7,000 employees. We were awarded by PEZA as Best Employer Hall of Fame by being Best Employer for the years 1997 to 1999. Successful candidates will be based in Canlubang, Laguna. Shuttle buses to and from the site are available even for Metro Manila residents. Please send your resumés to: The Assistant Vice President, HRD & General Affairs Department, Fujitsu Computer Products Corporation of the Philippines, SEPZ, Carmelray Industrial Park, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna, or email to: lgarcia@fcpp.fujitsu.co.jp. You may also apply personally in business attire, every M-W-F at 9 AM.

DIPLOMATIC MISSION

The Delegation of the European Commission in the Philippines is looking for an experienced and highly qualified candidate for the position of **PROJECT OFFICER** to assist in the implementation of its cooperation programmes in the Philippines.

Candidates should have:

- ☑ university degree, preferably in Economics or related field (including business studies, international relations, development studies, agriculture, or agricultural economics)
- ☑ thorough knowledge about the European Union and its institutions
- ☑ familiarity with government, academic and business circles
- ☑ an excellent command of English
- ☑ good analytical and writing skills
- ☑ ability to work in a team
- ☑ experience in the preparation, implementation or supervision of internationally funded cooperation activities especially in the fields of natural resources management, micro-finance or the health sector.

Candidates should preferably be in the age bracket of 28-40 years old. The position offered requires missions to the provinces of the Philippines.

Applications should contain full details of education, work experience, references, current remuneration, a recent photograph and a brief outline indicating why the candidate considers himself/herself suitable for the post. **Envelopes and letters of application should be clearly marked "Development Cooperation".**

Applications should be submitted BEFORE noon on Thursday, **31 January 2002**, to:

Administrative Attaché
Delegation of the European Commission in the Philippines
7th Floor, Salustiana D. Ty Tower
104 Paseo de Roxas corner Perea Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City

DO YOU SPEAK AND WRITE FLUENT ENGLISH?

BE AN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY RATER AND EARN OVER US$8 AN HOUR

To qualify, you must:

- ξ be fluent in spoken and written English and preferably use English as a household language
- ξ have a bachelor's degree (or higher) in English from UP, Ateneo, La Salle and other reputable universities
- ξ have more than 5 years' work experience at any level in any Philippine university
- ξ be able to work on-line from your own PC or Pentium III in any place in the Philippines for as long as your PC can receive a certain amount of on-line data for assessment

E-mail your comprehensive CV to: **english_rater@yahoo.com**

Interviews will be held in the Philippines.
Qualified applicants will be notified of his/her interview hour and testing date by e-mail.

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ROYAL
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MAIZENA

CALIFORNIA MANUFACTURING CO., INC.

Invites applicants for the position

DISTRIBUTOR ACCOUNTS OFFICER

- College graduate preferably Engineering, Accounting or any Management course
- Fresh graduate with high leadership capacity
- Computer literate
- With good oral and written communication skills

CUSTOMER DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

- Graduate of any Business or Marketing course
- Previous experience with channel marketing, sales in multinational company setting is an advantage.

Interested parties must be willing to take assignments in the Visayas and Mindanao areas. Residents of Visayas and Mindanao areas will be given priority.

Applicants may send their resumé through the following modes:
Fax: 838-86-76 or 838-86-67
E-mail: jenalyn.ornido@cmcphil.com

or mail us at:
THE RECRUITMENT TEAM
CALIFORNIA MANUFACTURING CO., INC.
Km. 18 East Service Road, SSH-way, Parañaque, Metro Manila

Unilever BESTFOODS

PRODUCTION MANAGER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Male/Female, 35-45 years old
- Four to five-year college degree, preferably in Industrial Engineering/BS Chemistry/Food Technology or Licensed Chemical/Mechanical/Electrical Engineer
- At least 5 years experience in a managerial capacity preferably in a food manufacturing company
- Computer literate preferably in MFG-PRO environment

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Responsible for production of goods of specified quantity and quality at minimum cost, according to schedule
- Evaluates new product concepts for plant capabilities
- Understands cost-effectiveness and capabilities of machines, tooling and methods through out the production
- Plans and monitors plant maintenance to make certain that all equipments are functioning properly
- Maintains rigorous safety standards and ensures safe working conditions

MANAGERIAL SKILLS:

- Strong leadership, planning and communication skills
- Above average analytical and problem solving abilities
- Pro-active, self-motivated, hardworking and results-oriented
- Coordinates to different support groups
- Manages all personnel functions for the production department, including staffing, compensation, training, transfer, and promotion
- Above average interpersonal skills (with both subordinates and superior)

Applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 picture at:

HRD MANAGER
Box Code No: JM 1301
c/o Classified Ads Division
Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F, Building B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

globalstride formerly Webservasia

We are one of the country's premier companies engaged in internet-based Customer Relationship Management. We invite experienced and highly motivated individuals to join our organization for the following positions:

IT Manager - Application Development (Code: ITMAD-IT)

The Information Technology Manager for Application Development will be responsible for directing, managing, assessing and organizing company's IT needs based on user requirements such as software development and system management. The candidate must have at least three (3) years progressive experience in project management acquired in software development environment, two years of which must be in a supervisory/ managerial capacity. Must have experience in using Microsoft platforms such as SQL Server, Microsoft 2000, Visual Basic. Must have the ability to mentor and motivate technical staff and deliver projects as required.

Training & Development Manager (Code: TM-Trn)

The Training Manager will be the key player in designing, implementing and oversseing the training programs of the company. The task includes developing training manuals, administering tools and job aids for performance enhancement, and coordinating the implementation of client-specific training. He/she will also be expected to play a vital role in implementing career and competency development programs for all employees.
The ideal candidate are persons between twenty-five and thirty-five years of age; at least three years of hands-on exposure in training and employee development. Experience in Customer Relationship Management and competency-based systems are a definite advantage.

QA Manager (Code: QAM-QA)

The Quality Assurance Manager will be responsible in developing, quality systems and guidelines that would enhance company efficiency and effectiveness. Specific duties would cover setting-up of quality standards necessary to ensure company-wide objectives are met; intitute tools that will ascertain all client reportorial requirements are of highest standards. The ideal candidate must have at least three years solid experience in quality assurance, two years of which must be in a supervisory capacity acquired in telecoms/service industry. Persons between twenty-five to thirty-five years of age are preferred.

Marketing Services Supervisor (Code: MSS-CS)

The Marketing Services Supervisor will be responsible for designing and preparation of marketing tools/proposals. The ideal candidate must have the knowledge in conducting market research. He/she must possess excellent communication skills. Persons between twenty-five to thirty years of age are preferred.

Shift Supervisor (Code: SS-PM)

The Shift Supervisor will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day activities of the customer care specialists. Must have excellent coaching skills to ensure high productivity levels. Ensure high-level of customer service during actual inteface with clients. The ideal candidate must have at least 2 years experience in online customer service. He/she must have strong analytical and interpersonal skills; excellent in verbal and written communication. Persons between twenty-five and thirty years of age are preferred.

Training Officer (Code: TO-Trn)

The Training Officer will be responsible for the design, schedule and implementation of training courses and programs. The ideal candidate must have an extensive experience in the whole training cycle from conducting of needs analysis, development of course curriculum, implementation of training programs, to post-assessment/ evaluation preferably acquired from a call center or from a service industry. The candidate must have strong interpersonal skills; excellent in written and verbal communications; smart and aggressive. Persons between twenty-five to thirty years of age are preferred.

Programmer (Code: Prog-IT)

The Programmer will be responsible for developing, designing, and implementation of database and test programs. The ideal candidate must have at least one (1) year programming experience using Visual Basic, SQL and MS Access. He/She must be a university/college degree holder in BS Computer Science; persons between twenty to twenty-seven years of age are preferred.

Customer Care Specialists (Code: CCS-PM)

The Customer Care Specialists will be at the forefront of our organization. They will be the focal point for all customer requests, and will be responsible for providing front line support and assistance to our clients. Our Customer Care Specialists are expected to analyze, diagnose and solve problems, with consistently high customer satisfaction rating. They should be courteous, customer-focused, and must be team spirited. The ideal candidates for the position are persons who are internet savvy college graduates; excellent communications skills; are between twenty and twenty-seven years of age, with excellent interpersonal skills; and are willing to work shifts. Previous experience in the customer relations management industry and can speak any foreign language such as Fookien, Mandarin, Cantonese and Spanish is a plus.

Interested parties are requested to submit their comprehensive resume indicating the position code to:

GLOBALSTRIDE
Attn: Human Resources Department
29/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City
Email: jobs@webservasia.com
Fax No: 911-8854

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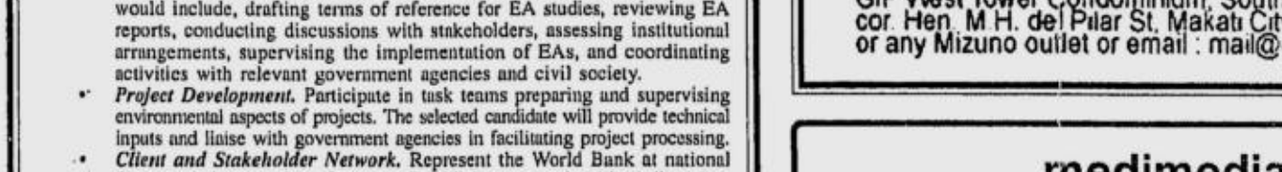

THAMES
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SCHOOL

Thames International Business School is a dynamic academic institution that aims to provide international business education to as many Filipinos as possible.

If you feel qualified for the following positions, send us your resume immediately!

Management

OPERATIONS MANAGER
- At least 28 years old
- Graduate of any foreign university or any of the country's top 5 universities
- With at least five years managerial experience

ACCOUNTING MANAGER
- At least 27 years old
- Accounting graduate from any reputable school, CPA
- At least five years supervisory / managerial experience, preferably in external audit

Management Trainees

- At least 23 years old
- Graduate of any business-related course of any foreign university or any of the country's top 5 universities
- With at least one year work experience
- Results-oriented and driven to succeed
- With strong leadership qualities

Staff Level

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS
- At least 21 years old
- Accounting graduate
- With at least one year experience in general bookkeeping

HUMAN RESOURCES STAFF
- At least 21 years old
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science course from any reputable school
- With at least 1 year experience in the field of personnel management

PART-TIME ENCODERS
- Computer literate
- Can type at least 40 words per minute

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER
- At least 21 years old
- Graduate of any Management or Social Science course from any reputable school
- Pleasing personality
- Strong customer service orientation
- High degree of patience and tolerance

LIBRARY ASSISTANT
- Library Science graduate
- Preferably with one year work experience
- Strong customer service orientation

Mail or email your resumes with transcripts to:

Human Resources Department
Thames International Business School
3/F Security Bank Corp. Bldg.
228 Ortigas Ave.
Greenhills, San Juan Metro Manila
email: cmarcelo@thamesintl.com

THE WORLD BANK
World Bank Office, Manila

Position Title: Operations Officer (Environment)

The World Bank Office, Manila seeks a candidate with a background in environmental management to assist in the in-country activities of the World Bank. The position will be for 3 years with one year probation and possibility of renewal. This position is subject to local recruitment and compensation. The selected candidate will be a part of the Bank's Environment and Social Development Unit in Manila and Washington DC. The Unit is primarily responsible for: (i) ensuring that Bank's safeguard policies are applied in the planning and implementation of investment operations; (ii) undertaking policy dialogue with client agencies to strengthen environmental management capacity in the Philippines; (iii) networking with stakeholders to advance environmental cooperation; and (iv) assisting the client agencies to identify and prepare projects that can be financed by Global Environmental Facility. The candidate will work closely with government agencies, the private sector, civil society and the media in advancing the above objectives. The selected candidate will report to the Country Director in Manila and the Sector Director in Washington D.C. The candidate will work closely with different Bank task teams.

Duties and Accountabilities

The Environmental Officer will be expected to engage in the following tasks:
- ***Environmental Safeguards.*** Provide support to task teams and clients in the application of the Bank's environmental safeguard policies (Environmental Assessment (EA), Forestry, Natural Habitats, and Integrated Pest Management) in different investment operations. This would include, drafting terms of reference for EA studies, reviewing EA reports, conducting discussions with stakeholders, assessing institutional arrangements, supervising the implementation of EAs, and coordinating activities with relevant government agencies and civil society.
- ***Project Development.*** Participate in task teams preparing and supervising environmental aspects of projects. The selected candidate will provide technical inputs and liaise with government agencies in facilitating project processing.
- ***Client and Stakeholder Network.*** Represent the World Bank at national foru, workshops and conferences. Establish a network with civil society and the private sector to expand the World Bank's dialogue with the environmental community in the Philippines.

Selection Criteria:

The Environmental Officer will be expected to have:
- At least a Master's degree in Engineering or Sciences with specialization in environmental management (or related field). Strong technical and practical background in environmental assessment and management, working knowledge of rural infrastructure, agricultural development, natural resources management, and water-related issues, with a good understanding of Philippine's institutional context.
- Minimum of 10 years experience in the Philippines or other developing countries in conducting and evaluating environmental assessments, environmental planning and management, with emphasis on regulatory aspects, investment planning and working with local groups and private sector.
- Good understanding of environmental impact assessment procedures and techniques. Knowledge of community participation approaches will be an added advantage.
- Strong analytical (computer-based), and client relations' skills. Ability to communicate, both verbal and written, in English.
- Proven ability to work in multi-disciplinary teams.
- Previous experience with international and donor organizations.

Please send your Application Letter/Bio-data/Academic Records/Reference Letters and latest photo not later than **February 1, 2002.** Send the above to:

The Administrative Officer
Box No. 2002
c/o Classified Ads Division
Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Bldg. B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

Master Sports MIZUNO

a sporting goods company is in need of the ff

- **MERCHANDISE OFFICER**
  - at least 2 yrs of merchandising experience in a retail store on a supervisory capacity
  - hardworking / responsible / w/ good fashion sense
  - computer literate
- **SALES CLERKS**
  - part time / full time
  - at least college level / graduate
  - computer literate
  - fluent in English & Filipino
  - expenence in sales an advantage
  - sport oriented also an advantage

applicants must submit their resume and most recent 2x2 picture to:

G/F West Tower Condominium, South Superhighway cor. Hen. M.H. del Pilar St. Makati City
or any Mizuno outlet or email : mail@gopezcorp.com

medimedia

a leader in healthcare information, No. 1 in the US for patient education and No. 1 worldwide in drug information, is looking for a

SALES MANAGER

Qualifications:
- Top 10% of graduating class
- Proven senior and successful sales track record in a highly challenging environment
- Exceptionally motivated, aggressive, ambitious
- Very articulate, with excellent communication skills
- Mature, with good interpersonal relationships
- Ability to work under pressure of time deadlines

Interested individuals are invited to send their resumé with recent photo and samples of work or references, **not later than 29 January 2002** to:

The HR Department
MMI, 28/F, Equitable Bank Tower
8751 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Fax: 886 0350 Email: lceniza@medimedia.com.ph

MAMA ROSA

Is seeking highly motivated and experienced personnel for the following positions:

RESTAURANT MANAGER
- HRM graduate
- At least three (3) years relevant work experience in fast food chain or restaurant
- 25-35 years old

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
- Graduate, Food Technology or related course
- Computer literate
- At least two (2) years relevant work experience in food service
- 25-35 years old

TRAINOR
- College graduate, Psychology or related Social Science course
- Computer literate
- At least two (2) years relevant work experience in food service
- 25-35 years old

CAPTAIN WAITER
- Male, from 26 to 30 years old
- Graduate of a four-year college course, preferably Hotel and Restaurant Management
- With at least two (2) years work experience in fine-dining operations
- With outgoing personality, good communication and interpersonal skills and leadership abilities

PANTRY GIRL
- Female, 20 to 30 years old
- With two years college education or equivalent vocational training
- With at least two (2) years work experience in fine-dining service

RECEPTIONIST
- Female, 20 to 30 years old
- With two years college education or equivalent vocational training
- With at least two (2) years work experience in fine-dining service
- Pleasing personality and can deal graciously with different types of people

KITCHEN HELPER
- Male, 20 to 30 years old
- With at least two (2) years work experience in fine-dining restaurant

BARTENDER
- Male, from 26 to 30 years old
- Graduate of a service training course, preferably Bartending
- With at least one (1) year work experience in fine-dining operations

WAITERS
- Male, from 20 to 30 years old
- With certificate of skills training in any restaurant service course
- With at least two (2) years work experience in fine dining restaurant
- Can deal courteously and graciously with different types of people

Apply in person with comprehensive resumé and recent picture.
Or send resumé with picture to:

Human Resources Department
#159 Kamias Road Extension
Quezon City

MANAGERIAL / TECHNICAL / PROFESSIONAL

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CREDIT & COLLECTION ASSISTANT
- ✓ Female, at least 24 yrs old, business course graduate, high computer literacy, physically fit
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs experience in similar function
- ✓ Organized, with strong interpersonal skills

FIELD SALES EXECUTIVE
- ✓ Male / Female, at least 24 yrs old, business course graduate, high computer literacy
- ✓ Highly motivated, physically fit, with at least 2 yrs sales exp., IT background an advantage
- ✓ Knowledgeable in and willing to travel to various parts of the country

HR ADMIN. ASSISTANT
- ✓ Female, at least 24 yrs old, graduate of psychology or any related behavioral course
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs exp. in small enterprise & knowledgeable in basic HR policies
- ✓ High computer literacy, physically fit

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- ✓ Female, at least 24 yrs old, business course graduate, high computer literacy
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs experience, physically fit
- ✓ Systematic, familiar with basic office work
- ✓ Excellent written and oral communication skills

CUSTOMER SERVICE COORDINATOR
- ✓ Female, at least 24 years old, business degree graduate, high computer literacy, physically fit
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs experience, with strong interpersonal skills, can work well under pressure and with minimum supervision
- ✓ Residing within or around Valenzuela area

Send your comprehensive resumé and photo to:

CARTAN DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, INC.
Rm. 805 State Centre Bldg., 333 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila
E-mail: jml@inquirer.com.ph
subject: cartan

V.L. CHAN LAW OFFICE & ASSOCIATES

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

LAWYERS
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS

We are looking for LAWYERS with positive mental attitude, at least one (1) year in practice, who wants a well-rounded legal practice and expertise in law positioning strategy.

We are likewise in search of EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS who have solid background in law office operations/administration, and who is/are willing to develop a craft in the legal setting.

Interested parties may call JUN ORONCE/IRIES L. ALBERTO at Tel. No. 724-6629, 721-9283 or send cover letter and resumé at Fax No. 721-7102 or Email at vchan@pacific.net.ph.

Receptive new lawyers are welcome to apply.

A public listed wireless communication system manufacturer is looking for energetic personnel to build up the business and market in Philippines.

SALES DIRECTOR

Responsible for sales, marketing, business and account development, office and team built-up, office and operation set-up with full P&L accountability.

- ☑ 7-10 years in telecom industry with at least 5 years in supervisory roles and with excellent sales records in cellular and wireless broadband access market
- ☑ Excellent connections with operators and government authorities, such as NTC
- ☑ Exposure in operation setup, licensing, channel distribution and type approval
- ☑ Mature, initiative, aggressive with track record in sales and business development, entrepreneur, strong commercial and negotiation experience
- ☑ Sound product and market knowledge in GSM, cellular and wireless access industry with good personal skill and contacts with regulatory bodies and customers
- ☑ Good communication in spoken and written English with good presentation skill
- ☑ Degree in Electronics, Marketing or equivalent

We offer excellent compensation and benefits package with stock option to the capable candidate. Please send resumé with details of job experience, present and expected salary to: **The Administrative Officer** by e-mail at address: **recruit_philippines@hotmail.com**

A WELL ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY AS

FINANCIAL ANALYSTS
- Between 21 to 35 years old
- Accounting graduate, computer literate
- Proficient in oral and written communication with analytical ability
- Preferably with related work experience
- Willing to work beyond regular office hours

SECRETARIES
- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year business course
- Knowledge in secretarial services
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

HRM STAFF
- Female, between 21-28 years old
- BS Psychology graduate or any related course
- With good verbal and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- Honest, hardworking and with good human relations skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

NURSE
- Female, Nursing graduate
- At least 21-25 years old
- Preferably with experience
- Computer literate

ARTISTS
- Male, between 21-30 years old
- Fine Arts or Interior Design graduate
- With creative skills in drawing, lettering, silk screening, flower arranging, etc.
- Willing to work beyond working hours

MAKE-UP ARTISTS
- Male, Female, Gay, between 21 to 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business course
- At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
- Good in oral communication skills

BEAUTY THERAPISTS
- Female, between 21 to 25 years old
- 5'2" and above in height
- With pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Graduate of Nursing or Physical Therapy
- With good communication skills

BEAUTY CONSULTANTS
- Female, between 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
- Good in oral communication skills

SALES ASSOCIATES
- Between 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- At least 5'2" in height with clear complexion
- Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Good in oral communication skills

HVAC TECHNICIAN
- Male, not over 30 years old
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering
- At least 3 years related work experience

ELECTRICIAN
- Male, at least 25 to 28 years old
- Graduate of Electrical Engineering
- Must have worked as an Electrician or Maintenance Staff for at least 2 years
- Must have skills in trouble shooting of different kinds of office equipment
- Willing to work beyond working hours

DRIVER
- Male, not over 35 years old
- With at least two (2) years Professional Driver's License
- Knowledge in trouble shooting/auto-mechanics an advantage

BOX 100
c/o PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

A leading manufacturer and distributor of world class food brands with extensive market both in consumer and institutional products is in need of mature and dynamic individual to join the pool of their talented workforce.

If you are...

- Male, college graduate
- Preferably has knowledge and experience working with Chefs and restaurant owners
- With culinary expertise or knowledge in Food Service
- Must be FLUENT in Cantonese, Fookien and English
- Food Service Sales/Marketing experience an advantage

Then you are the person we are looking for. Please send your resumé to:

HR Department
145 Panay Avenue, Quezon City
or e-mail at: hr@sysuinc.com.ph

A social enterprise organization engaged in Fair Traded Handicrafts is in need of energetic and innovative **PRODUCT MERCHANDISER** for local Market

- ✓ A Graduate of either

  Business Administration major in Marketing with background in Product Designing and Trends for handicrafts and foodstuff

  or

  B.S. Industrial Design with a thorough background in product marketing for handicrafts and foodstuff
- ✓ Must have proficiency with MS Office, Adobe Photoshop, PageMaker and Corel Draw
- ✓ At least 2 years experience in product trend merchandising
- ✓ At least 25-35 years old
- ✓ Must be a team player with good oral and written communication

Written applications with your curriculum vitaé should be sent to the Executive Director at 2594 Lamayan St., Sta. Ana, Manila or through Fax No. 563-4632, e-mail: safrudi@skyinet.net and must arrive not later than January 28, 2002. Only prequalified applicants will be notified.

NEW VENTURES! NEW PRODUCTS!

AMPHIL BIO CHEMICAL

Exclusive Philippine Distributor of MEGA Diagnostics, Inc., USA

NOW HIRING!!! NOW HIRING!!!

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES
- Medical Technology Graduate
- Marketing/Sales Background
- Dedicated & Hardworking

Qualified applicants may apply in person at:

Suite 708, Richville Corporate Tower,
1107 Alabang - Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City
Tel. Nos.: 809-2597, 850-1711, 850-1861
Fax: 850-1502

An established and fast growing infrastructure/ utility corporation is looking for:

CIVIL ENGINEER, who must be:
- Licensed/Registered Engineer
- With 5 years related work experience in buildings, grounds (landscape), road maintenance and other related civil works
- Preferably Male
- Good in oral and written communication skills

INTERNAL AUDITOR, who must be:
- Certified Public Accountant
- Computer literate
- With 2 years experience in financial and audit works
- Good in oral and written communication skills

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR
- Preferably graduate of Civil/Mechanical Engineering course
- With experience as Building Administrator
- Good in oral and written communication skills

A COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION PACKAGE AWAITS YOU.

Interested applicants are invited to send their applications together with curriculum vitaé, diploma, transcript of records and recent passport-sized photo to:

Admin/HR Department
PEA Tollway Corporation
PEA Tollway Compound
Aguinaldo Boulevard (Coastal Road)
Parañaque City

John Snow, Inc., a leading health-sector consulting firm based in Boston, Massachusetts and Washington D.C., seeks applicants for the position of:

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

For the World Bank - funded Contract Distribution System (CDS) for Core Essential Drugs Project of the Department of Health. Fulltime assignment is for 5 months starting approximately February 2002.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide technical assistance in the enhancement and implementation of the system. This will comprise of software development, network and software installation, system maintenance/enhancement and systems documentation.
2. Conduct training on the CDS LMIS for DOH designated CDS IT persons at the central and remote sites, in coordination with the DOH-IMS.
3. Identify and recommend solutions to the operational bottleneck to ensure efficient and effective CDS LMIS operations.
4. Ensure the correct implementation of Project activities and timely submission of the Project's LMIS deliverables and other required reports to the Department of Health.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Computer Programmer must have the following qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or other related courses
- Minimum of three (3) years experience using RDBMS specifically Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprise and Adaptive Server Anywhere
- Knowledge/experience in implementing IT Projects under GOP conditions
- Proficient in Windows NT or 2000, at least two (2) years experience
- Minimum of three (3) years experience using PowerBuilder
- Free to travel outside Metro Manila, if required

REQUIREMENTS
- Resumé
- NBI or Police Clearance
- Recent 2x2 photo

Please submit complete requirements to **Mr. JUN AMABLE** or **Mr. OLIVER MARGAREJO** of John Snow, Inc., 2nd Floor, Building 25, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila or email comprehensive resumé (MS Word format) to jsicds@info.com.ph not later than January 28, 2002.

WE ARE IN NEED OF

SALES ENGINEERS

Graduate of Civil Engineering or Architecture
Experience in selling metal decking,
aluminum composite panel
and walling products is an advantage

ARCHITECKS
metal systems inc.
533 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City
Tel. No. 931-2602 / 951-2289 to 91 Fax No. 931-1459

E-mail Add.:amsi@nsclub.net / architecks@edsamail.com.ph

WANTED

A travel agency is in need of the following personnel in line with its expansion activities:

TICKETING & RESERVATION STAFFS
ACCOUNTANTS, BOOKKEEPERS OR AUDITORS
SALES REPRESENTATIVES
DOCUMENTATION CLERKS

- Male or Female
- All of the above, with or without experience
- For accountants, bookkeepers or auditors, may or may not be CPAs
- All of the above, willing to do overtime
- All of the above, trustworthy, honest, hardworking, respectful, willing to learn and has common sense

Any interested party must submit an application letter, 2 pcs. 2"x2" pictures, biodata and transcript of school records. Applicants must submit complete requirements to **P.O. Box 2488, Quezon City Central Post Office.**

PEOPLESUPPORT

PeopleSupport is a leading contact center that provides customer service via email, chat, voice-over-IP, and phone. Our global network is composed of corporate headquarters in L.A., US operations center in St. Louis, Missouri, sales offices strategically placed in major cities in the US, and of course, the Asia Pacific Headquarters in Manila, Philippines.

WWW.PEOPLESUPPORT.COM

eReps™

are PeopleSupport's customer service representatives who provide online customer service via email, chat, voice-over-IP and phone on a 24x7 basis.
QUALIFICATIONS: Four year college degree. Customer service orientation. Excellent English communication skills. Internet savvy. Willing to work shifts. Good typing skills.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

travel eReps™
2+ years' experience in airline reservations (preferably international), or hotel/car rental reservations.

technical eReps™
College graduates from Computer Science/IT courses (or any related degree/background).

General eReps™
College graduates with strong customer service orientation.

We offer a dynamic work environment, casual dress code, professional development and training, and a competitive compensation and benefits package.

EMAIL YOUR RESUMES TO: applicants@peoplesupport.com
12th - 14th Fl. Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati

Southville International School

Internationally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges(WASC), USA

Take the challenge of joining a dynamic educational institution as it strives to assume leadership in the academe.

For schoolyear 2002-2003, we are actively seeking for faculty and staff who are committed to develop learners to become movers of society.

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS
- College grad. preferably with specialization in Early Childhood Education
- Preferably with specialization in Physical Education, Music and Art
- must not be more than 30 yrs. old

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
- Graduate of a four-year course pref. related to **NURSING or PSYCHOLOGY**
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate with good typing skills
- Must be service-oriented
- With pleasing personality, not more than 30 years old

GRADE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS
- College graduate pref. with education units
- Specialization on any of the following subjects is a must: English, ESL, Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, World History,**MANDARIN/CHINESE**, Filipino, Business Math (Accounting/Economics), Computer Education, Physical Education, Art, Music, Values Education,
- Preferably with graduate studies in education
- Must not be more than 40 years old

PROMOTIONS STAFF
- Graduate of a four-year marketing-related or Mass Communication course
- With excellent oral and written communication skills and can write feature/promotions articles for press releases
- Computer literate
- Female, not more than 30 yrs. old

LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT HEAD
- College graduate with education units and with specialization in English, preferably with MA degree

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS/PSYCHOMETRICIANS
- Psychology or Counseling graduates with at least one yr. experience in an educational setting
- With leadership qualities

S.I.S. offers a good compensation and benefits package.
We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resume', transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo or come for testing with the required credentials on January 26, February 2 or 16, 2002.
The test will start promptly at 8:00 AM.

Human Resource Office, Southville International School
1281 Tropical Avenue corner Luxembourg St., BF International, Las Piñas City
Tel. No. 820-8702/03 or 825-6374 local 106

The best companies need the best people.

JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

MEDICard PHILS INC.

One of the country's leading HMO is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

• NURSES
- At least 5'7" for males and 5'3" for females. Must be a registered nurse;
- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in a hospital or HMO setting;
- With pleasing personality and above-average communication skills;
- Successful male applicant must be willing to work the graveyard shift.

• VISUAL BASIC PROGRAMMER
- Graduate of four (4) years Computer related course;
- With 2 years programming experience;
- Working knowledge in MS SQL Server is an advantage.

• X-RAY TECHNOLOGIST
- Female, between 21 to 27 years of age;
- Graduate of B.S. Radiologic Therapy;
- With at least 6 months relevant experience (ultrasound, xray);
- Must be computer literate.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at: Medicard Phils., Inc.: Human Resources Department - 5/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Email us at rsalmon@medicardphils.com

(Previous applicants need not apply)

DIRECT HIRING!!!

NURSES

(Immigrate to the USA)

Cleveland Hospital, Ohio, USA
Non-CGFNS/CGFNS
With recent Hospital Experience

- No Agency Fees or Placement Fees
- Permanent Greencard Paid
- Transportation and Free Housing Paid
- Offers Financial Assistance for CGFNS, TOEFL, TSE & ICHP APPS.
- Offers Free Review Classes for CGFNS, TOEFL & TSE

Please come for interview at:

CEBU
CEBU PLAZA HOTEL
January 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29, 2002

TAGBILARAN, BOHOL
METRO CENTRE HOTEL
January 31, February 1, 2, 3 & 4, 2002

MANILA
EDSA Shangrila Hotel, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila
February 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13, 2002

You may contact or send your resumé to corporate office:

Alliance International/Med-Employ
G/F Cebu Plaza Hotel
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City 6000 Philippines
Tel. Nos. 032-234-2749; 032-231-1231 loc. 5806
Cellphone Nos.: (Fara) 0919-2983-961; (Anjuli) 0919-5041580;
(Mary Ann) 0918-5587539

RAMCAR TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED

(An ISO 9001-Certified mold and die manufacturer)

Urgently needs the following:

ELECTRONICS ENGINEER

- Male, 25-30 years old
- Graduate of B.S. ECE (license is not required but an advantage)
- Preferably with exposure in Siemens programming on industrial automation and PLC
- Highly computer literate

Due to the URGENCY of this requirement, qualified applicants are advised to apply personally to:

THE CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION
Ramcar Center,
80-82 Roces Avenue, Quezon City
**Previous applicants need not apply.*

SAN BENILDO INTEGRATED SCHOOL

De La Salle Supervised
Grade School & High School Department
Marcos & Sumulong Highway, Rizal

Is in need of the following for school year 2002-2003

1. **Grade School and High School teachers in all subjects (preferably LET passer)**
2. **Guidance Counselor**
3. **Librarian (board passer)**

Hiring rate: Php 11,000.00

Bring your resumé, transcript of records, and PRC License and 2x2 picture.

Please contact Dr. Cellie S.L. Santos at 6811718 or 6787438 (GS) and 6608105-10 (HS)

YU ENG KAO

Electrical Supply and Hardware, Inc.
Importer • Distributor • Wholesaler

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SALES ENGINEERS

- Graduates of Engineering, preferably Electrical
- Proficient in communication skills in English, Pilipino & Chinese
- Effective skills in interpersonal relations
- Confident, outgoing personality, and street-smart in spotting business opportunities
- male or female, 21-35 yrs. old

Successful candidates can look forward to a career development in the company with sufficient training opportunities and recognition for worthwhile achievements.

Apply personally at 2209 Jose Abad Santos Avenue near Batangas Street, Tondo, Manila with bio-data sheets, 1" x 1" ID photos and transcript of records.

BOURN DNOT

Our company is in need of dynamic, hardworking individual to be a part of our organization for the position:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- ❒ Male/Female, 21-25 years old
- ❒ College graduate preferably B.S. Marketing major or any related course
- ❒ preferably with 1-2 years experience in Sales and Marketing
- ❒ results-oriented and hardworking
- ❒ fluent in oral and written English and Filipino
- ❒ with pleasing personality, computer literate

Interested parties may submit their resumé with one (1) 2x2 I.D. picture together with NBI/Barangay clearance, TOR at:

Unit 917 Cityland Shaw Towers
Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City,
or you may call us at 910-1800
b/w 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri
and look for Ms. Kareen.

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL/GENERAL

URGENT!!!

A fast growing oil company is in need of the following personnel:

MARKET DEVELOPERS

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Requirements:

- College graduate, preferably of Commerce or Engineering
- 22-35 years old
- Self-motivated & hardworking
- Fluent in English
- Willing to undergo company training & can work at once

High salary will be offered to qualified applicants.

Please send your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture to:

P.O. Box 102
Ayala Alabang Branch

You are invited to BUILD and GROW with us!

JARDINE LAND

a leading developer of first-class middle-income communities in Cavite area is expanding its pool of housing contractors to meet the large demand of houses to be constructed this year.

If your company has manifested high quality of construction that can be attested by the confidence of your previous clients, you may have the potential to become one of our partner-contractors.

Please send your Letter of Intent to:
THE CONTRACTS OFFICER
Project Management & Construction
P.O. Box No. 132 - 134
Ortigas Post Office, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATES

who:

- finished at the upper 10% of his or her batch
- is proficient in both oral and written English
- has a strong interest in Psychological Testing & Evaluation and Sales
- should be computer literate
- should have good interpersonal skills

Contact persons:

Ricelle or Dess
MPCO Box 1646, 1256 Makati City
or call 896-0970 • 896-0742/44

EduQuest, Inc.

An affiliate of Asia Pacific College

WE ARE A KNOWLEDGE COMPANY
searching for:

INSTRUCTION SPECIALISTS

for **Preschool, Grade School, High School,** & **College** in the areas of **English, Math,** & **Science** with experience in teaching, training, and in curriculum development

TRAINING SPECIALISTS

with experience in training needs analysis, training management, program monitoring and evaluation and in curriculum development.

MARKETING OFFICER

with experience in preparing project proposals, program presentation and account management.

TECHNICAL SPECIALIST

with experience in troubleshooting and systems administration.

The above positions will also require the following qualifications:

- Graduate of a 4-year course
- With excellent oral and written communicatiorl skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- Knowledgeable in the use of basic computer productivity tools
- Willing to travel

Above-industry compensation package and a progressive career await successful candidates.

Please submit your comprehensive resume, transcript of records, and recent 2x2 photo on or before January 31, 2002 to:
Ms. Felicitas Tabag, HRD Director
Asia Pacific College
3 Humabon Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City 1200

e-mail: eqjobs@apc.edu.ph
Fax: 852-5838 ö Tel. No.: 853-05-35

We will only respond to qualified applicants

Successful applicants should be ready to report for work by 01 April 2002

EduQuest, Inc. is an organizational partnership among:

IBM SM EQUICOM COMPUTERS

LUDO & LUYM CORPORATION

One of the oldest and biggest Coconut Oil manufacturer in the country, the first Cornstarch manufacturer in the country and also a manufacturer of Glucose and Caramel through its subsidiary FAR EAST CORN, is urgently in need of:

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
and
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

The person we are looking for should possess the following work-related skills and background:

- ✓ Male, not more than 37 years old (Sr. Acct. Exec.)
- ✓ Male, not more than 35 years old (Acct. Exec.)
- ✓ Chinese speaking, Xiamen
- ✓ Must have at least 5 years experience in selling and marketing
- ✓ Experience in dealing with Industrial, Institutional and Corporate accounts
- ✓ Must be aggressive, creative, dynamic and results-oriented
- ✓ With experience in selling food ingredients
- ✓ Proficient in customer relations, well organized and can work independently
- ✓ Honest, hardworking, flexible & possess integrity of character
- ✓ College graduate
- ✓ Proficient in oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Should have at least 2 years supervisory experience (Sr. Acct. Exec.)
- ✓ Manila-based

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS MAY SEND APPLICATION LETTER, COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TOR AND 2X2 ID PICTURE TO:

LUDO & LUYM CORPORATION
505 Equitable Bank Bldg.
Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila
Tel. No. 2416088, 2415968 Fax 2415785

AXIS COMPUTER INCORPORATED

2nd Floor Unit 8 Triplex Building
2255 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Tel. 813-6903

We are currently in need of energetic people to fill up the spot for our expansion program.

Positon: **SALES EXECUTIVE / TRAINEE**

Description: Will be engaged on establishing a sales network that will carry the company's product line (IBM, HP, Compaq, Intel computer/server, Compatible PC, Computer Peripherals) and other computer related services.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Male or Female, not more than 30 years old, College graduate and must have a degree in Marketing or Communication/Computer Engineer or any Computer Related courses. Must be hardworking. Must have an excellent Customer Sales and Service skills. Proficient in oral and written English. Can work with minimal supervision and having established business contact is an advantage.

We offer commissions, incentives, bonuses and comprehensive training programs.

Interested parties can submit their comprehensive resumés (with current 2x2 picture) from January 14 to 31, 2002.

UNIVERSAL RECORDS

Be part of the Country's No. 1 entertainment company and start your career working with the recording industry's best and finest.

We are looking for assertive and motivated individuals to fill the following positions:

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- *Male/Female*
- *24-30 yrs. old*
- *Business Management, Mass Communication or Marketing Graduate from reputable university.*
- *Preferably has 2 years experience working as a marketing assistant in a recording company or a media-related firm.*
- *Knowledgeable in MS Office (Word & Excel)*
- *Responsible and can work with minimal supervision*
- *Excellent communication skills (oral and written) both in English and Filipino.*
- *Knows how to drive and preferably has own car.*

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- *Male/Female*
- *24-30 yrs. old*
- *Business Management, Mass Comm. or Marketing Graduate from a reputable university.*
- *2 yrs. extensive experience working for sales in a recording company or a media-related firm.*
- *Excellent communication skills (oral and written) both in English and Filipino.*
- *Hardworking, aggressive and resourceful.*
- *Preferably with extensive client base*
- *Knows how to drive and preferably has own car.*

For interested parties, please submit your application letter, resume and 2X2 picture on January 22 & 23, 2002 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm to:

Ms. SUSAN CABRAL
9/F Universal Tower
1487 Quezon Avenue, West Triangle,
Quezon City, 1104

BEYOND THE LINE ADVERTISING • PROMOTIONS • PUBLIC RELATIONS • SALES SUPPORT

executive decisions — AN INTEGRATED MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS (IMC) FIRM

Client's Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) Agency of Choice!!!

ASSOCIATE MARKETING COUNSELOR

Young, fresh & dynamic individual who will be performing more than just account servicing but marketing assistance & counsel to our principals.

Qualifications:

Not over 26 yrs. old, male or female.
Marketing or business-related course from a reputable school.
To handle advertising & promotions activities.
Willing to go on local travel.
Pleasing personality, go-getter, ambitious, trustworthy, unselfish and a team player.
Willing to grow with the company.

Successful applicant can look forward to an above industry compensation and benefit package.

Interested and qualified applicants may send their resumes with 2x2 size color photo and supporting documents (transcript &/or employment records) to:

HR and ADMIN. HEAD
Executive Decisions

3rd Floor Dona Segunda Building, 113 Kamuning Road, Quezon City
Trunk Lines: 413-6436/37 • 448-5396/98

**Those with attitude problems need not apply.*

Sensormatic
securing today's business

DUE TO HIGH DEMAND FOR SENSORMATIC PRODUCTS, WE ARE IN NEED OF HIGHLY MOTIVATED

SALES PERSONNEL

FOR MANILA AND DAVAO AREA:

- College graduate (preferably Marketing/Management and Business course)
- Good in oral and written communication
- Must have a marketing/sales experience of at least 2 years
- Willing to be trained in Sales or in Marketing
- Must have a positive attitude towards work.

Qualified applicants may send no later than January 25, 2002 their Letter of Intent and Resumé with a 2x2 photo to:

THE SALES DEPARTMENT
ATTN: Mr. Elmer G. Doble
Unit 2204 Prestige Tower Condominium
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
or e-mail at
sensorma@skylnet.net

李達國際控股有限公司
Hantec Investment Holdings Ltd.

Hantec Investment Holdings Ltd. is a publicly listed company in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange providing services in the financial market. Its wholly owned subsidiary office is currently on its expansion phase and is in need of top caliber individuals for the following positions:

Marketing Officers
Investment Analyst/Consultant

Responsibilities:
The successful individual would be tasked to broaden clientele base, analyze and provide technical and fundamental market recommendations, and implement marketing plans.

Qualifications:

- Male or Female between 20 to 35 years of age
- Graduate from top local or international university
- Excellent communication and written skills in English, Filipino (and/or Chinese)
- Relevant financial experience is preferred
- Established account relationship with high net worth private and institutional clients
- Pleasing and impressive personality
- With good analytical mind and can work with minimum supervision
- With high inclination to marketing
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Applicants are requested to come in proper business attire with their resume, transcript of records, and two 2 x 2 pictures at:

Unit 907-B, West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center,
Exchange Road, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City.

Interview schedule is set on **January 21 –23, 2001**
from 9:00am to 12:00pm and 1:30pm to 5:30pm

A relatively young, and aggressive company, with several affiliates engaged in the manufacture and sales of various chemical products with principal base of operation in the Philippines and extending as far as the Asia-Pacific region and the United States is inviting applicants to fill up existing vacancies for the following positions:

2 - Chief Accountants (CPA)

2 - Accounting Clerks

- graduate of Accounting from a reputable school
- with at least 2-3 years relevant experience in a manufacturing set-up
- proficient in computer applications
- single, female, with pleasing personality and supervisory capability

3 - Management Trainees

(fresh graduates are welcome)

- graduate of Industrial or Chemical Engineering from a reputable school
- with supervisory capability and computer literate
- single, male or female

2 - Marketing Management Trainees

(fresh graduates are welcome)

- graduate of at least 4-year college course from a reputable school
- must enjoy research and field work as the job entails travel around the country
- must be self-motivated and results-oriented
- experience in sales and/or marketing can be an advantage

1 - Pharmacist

- licensed
- with BFAD exposure
- single, female

1 - Secretary

- graduate of 4-year related course from a reputable school
- above-average communication skills, computer literate
- single, female and with pleasing personality

Salaries and benefits will be comparable with those of the industry!

All applicants must not be over 30 years of age and may send comprehensive resumé together with transcript of records to **M.C.P.O. Box 10030**

CHATEAU 1771
ORTIGAS CENTER • MALATE

Group of Restaurants
announces its openings for its expansion in Makati

To work in a restaurant is a "high calling",
because we are always expected to give of ourselves and more.
In simple terms, we eat challenges for breakfast.

RESTAURANT OPERATIONS MANAGERS
- College graduate, ideally HRA/HRM.
- At least 2 years experience in the same position or 3 years experience as an Asst. Manager in a fine dining restaurant.

RESTAURANT SERVICE MANAGERS
- College graduate, ideally HRA/HRM
- At least 2 years experience as a Junior Manager or 3 years as a Senior Supervisor in a fine dining restaurant

COOKS WITH A PASSION FOR LIFE, FOR FOOD
- College graduate or its equivalent in work experience.

ASPIRING CHEFS
- Experienced COOKS who are college graduates.
- Not afraid of "storms". Food lovers. Not a Math-hater.
- If you're a culinary graduate, you must also be a college graduate.

GUEST SERVICE OFFICERS
- College graduates to be trained in BANQUET SALES, MARKETING, & CUSTOMER RELATIONS. Hindi galit o takot sa mundo.

TRAINEES FOR PROFESSIONAL RESTAURANT STAFF
- College graduate, ideally HRA/HRM, or its equivalent in work experience
- To be trained as SERVERS, CASHIERS, RECEPTIONISTS, & KITCHEN HELPERS

****

Candidates must be willing to undergo 4-6 months of extensive training in all aspects of our operations, especially for leadership positions.

Qualified applicants may send their resume, 2x2 ID photo, transcript of records, certificates of employment or clearance from previous employers to:

HRD DEPARTMENT
1771 M. Adriatico St.,
Malate, Manila

* Positions available up to February 15, 2002
* Anticipated March graduates are welcome to apply.

Where you find the best.

JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

DATABASE/VISUAL BASIC PROGRAMMERS
GRAPHIC ARTIST/WEB SITE DEVELOPERS

- Part/Full Time Positions
- Contract Placements
- Project Assignments
- Consulting Engagements

Visual Basic/MS Certified or equivalent experience preferred, knowledge in HTML/JAVA a big plus.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Experience with Microsoft Office and Windows, knowledge in graphics and desktop publishing, encoding skills a big plus.

SALES and MARKETING EXECUTIVES

- Aggressive and energetic individuals with pleasing personality

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Mr. Roland Schwanke
Head of Mission
Medecins Sans Frontières - Switzerland
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SUNDAY
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE
January 20, 2002
Volume 14 No. 46

All the President's Men and Women

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Photograph by Edwin Bacasmas

BRAVO, JOHN

FOR John Silva: *Salamat sa* article *mo*, "No Exit Signs" (**SIM,** 23 December 2001). I couldn't resist giving some feedback this time, though I've been reading your articles and Jonathan's over the last year. I always find them intelligent, rad, refreshing and *nakakatabang-puso*.

We met only once at the GCHP office on Market St. (it was already called Living Well Project at the time you came to visit). I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate your writing and the work you are doing now. Reading "No Exit Signs" during this unusually twisted holiday season, especially for economic refugees/immigrants like us in the US is very grounding. It reminds me, *Oo, may* mission *pa rin ako sa buhay*. I don't have to limit my life planning to living in the US the rest of my life. And in some way your going back home to resettle serves as a model. I can see myself going back to doing women's rights advocacy and HIV work there.

Pwede rin akong tumulong sa iyo, by bringing my own sons to the National Museum, besides the scores of other children and parents I can help mobilize. And that's only one level of the work that's ahead of you, us, all Filipinos right now. *Salamat ng marami sa inspirasyon na ibinigay ng iyong artikulo*.

RACHEL MATILLANO
rachelm@apiwellness.org

BRAVO for the article "No Exit Signs" (**SIM,** 23 December 2001), where author John Silva steadfastly declares his refusal to leave, despite the popular conviction that there is no longer anything attractive in this country.

I am one of those who, almost 50 years ago, obtained a master's degree in the US but refused to work there, and instead opted to build a career here. As a former executive, I am now retired, but still residing in this country. I have four married children, none of whom have opted to flee (at least, not yet), and continue to slug it out in the difficult marketplace.

I know whereof John Silva speaks. And I salute him for his patriotism, now so rare among his generation. Thank you for publishing his article, which I hope will inspire others of John's age to view our country as worthy of the effort to keep it afloat.

JOSE C. VALDES
Baguio City
renevald@mozcom.com

TO Mr. John Silva: I'm 25, a third year medical student, my parents are in the States and I'm not leaving either. Final answer. Thank you for what you wrote.

EUNICE V. SERMONIA
eunice@i-iloilo.com.ph

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!
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Music Makers
by Eric S. Caruncho

By day, Anton Ramos sells CDs. By night, as a cool, discriminating DJ, he's an avid proponent of sophisticated sounds that soothe

Licensed to Chill

WHOEVER SAID "MUSIC SOOTHES THE SAVAGE BEAST" HIT IT RIGHT ON THE HEAD. THE WORLD MOVES TO A MAD MERENGUE BEAT, AND IT'S ALL WE CAN DO TO KEEP TIME. BY DAY'S END, ALL THE AVERAGE WORKING STIFF WANTS TO DO IS KICK BACK WITH THE FIRST COLD DRINK OF THE EVENING – MAKE IT A DOUBLE — AND PUT SOME MUSIC ON THAT WILL LOOSEN THAT WHITE-KNUCKLE DEATH GRIP, BRING THE B.P. DOWN TO NORMAL, AND RESTORE FRAYED NERVES TO SOME KIND OF EQUILIBRIUM.

Nobody minds a little Chopin before dinner. Your dad had his Lawrence Welk and Mantovani records. And how else can you explain the popularity of, argh, Kenny G.?

But there's a more contemporary alternative to that yuppie microbrew music. It goes by various names: downtempo, lounge, and most descriptively, chill-out.

"It's not really a genre like house or techno," says Anton Ramos, DJ and, coincidentally, president of the Music One chain of music stores. "It's more a feeling than a genre." And the feeling is...chilled.

Since 1997, Ramos has been hosting "The Chillout Project," a two-hour lounge program on WKRT FM (8-10 p.m. Thursdays, with a replay from 2 to 6 a.m. Sunday, timed to catch clubbers recovering from Saturday night). Last year, he also started spinning live at Wasabi, a Japanese restaurant in Makati, together with other DJs. The radio show led to a compilation CD also titled "The Chillout Project". The album was quickly pirated, which gives some indication of the genre's growing popularity. Late last year, Ramos released a follow-up compilation called "The Lounge Story," which is being promoted as "over 70 minutes of soothing beats and laid-back downtempo grooves."

Betoy Johnson

Ramos spins and sells tunes

Any song can be chill-out, so long as it has that mellow vibe, says Ramos.

"Great DJs are defined by their material and their programming, and that's what I strive for," he says. True to the genre's eclectic spirit, he sprinkles his set with a little of everything, from Shirley Bassey to — dig this — '70s Italian porn movie soundtracks.

In fact, lounge's ancestors can be traced as far back as one cares to go in the history of music. Some obvious wellsprings include Erik Satie's "Gymnopedies," the "birth of the cool" period of jazz, the '50s "space age bachelor pad music" of Martin Denny and Les Baxter, the orchestrated '60s pop of Burt Bacharach and Jimmy Webb, Indian ragas, Jamaican dub, French chanson and Brazilian bossa nova, the ambient electronic music of Brian Eno and such recombinations as the trip-hop of groups like Massive Attack and Portishead.

But the popularity of chill-out is largely a spin-off from the dance scene. The early raves usually set aside a "chill-out" room where partygoers could recover from their exertions, come down from their peaks, or just socialize. A separate DJ would spin an eclectic, laid-back set. As dance music mutated into dozens of sub-genres, lounge music came into its own.

"The explosion of chill-out really started with sunset bars like Café del Mar in Ibiza," says Ramos.

At the aforementioned café, house DJ Jose Padilla would spin an eclectic set of mood music as the sun set to prime clubbers for their regular night out. The "Café del Mar" series of compilation CDs became bestsellers, and eventually Padilla's eclectic tastes (everything from Frank Sinatra to '70s jazz fusion) came to define the downtempo scene.

The 27-year-old Ramos' own passion for music grew out of his clubbing experiences in the mid-'80s, when he frequented bars and lounges such as the Stargazer and Louie Y's, where the program usually consisted of light jazz and R & B, a forerunner of today's bar scene.

A management graduate of the Ateneo, Ramos' family owns the National Bookstore chain, but he confesses to having little interest in reading. In fact, the first job he applied for was with a local record company.

"I've always been a music lover. Right now I probably have 5,000 CDs."

Ramos managed to combine the family business interests and his own passion for music when he opened Music One, the first modern music store in the country ("modern" here meaning no salesgirls screaming "Octo *ba si* Ogie Alcasid?" or something across the room). Music One now has three branches, two of which share space with National Bookstore or Powerbooks. ("It's a very synergistic business; people who buy books also buy CDs.") Needless to say, Music One carries a wide selection of chill-out titles.

Recently, Ramos also formed Music First, a management company tasked with the rehabilitation of the ailing local Tower Records chain. The business plan calls for the eventual consolidation of the two stores, while preserving the distinct personalities of each.

It is going to be a tough task, given Tower's current financial straits, and will take up the better part of the year, but Ramos says there are a lot more pros than cons.

Meanwhile, he continues to spin. Eventually, he hopes to find homegrown artists with the right vibe that he can include in his sets.

"It's really for the love of music that I'm doing it."

First Person
by Alex Almario

All sports junkies share a profound passion for the games. This is why I find it odd that love of sports is often looked at as a shallow preoccupation

And the Crowd Goes Wild

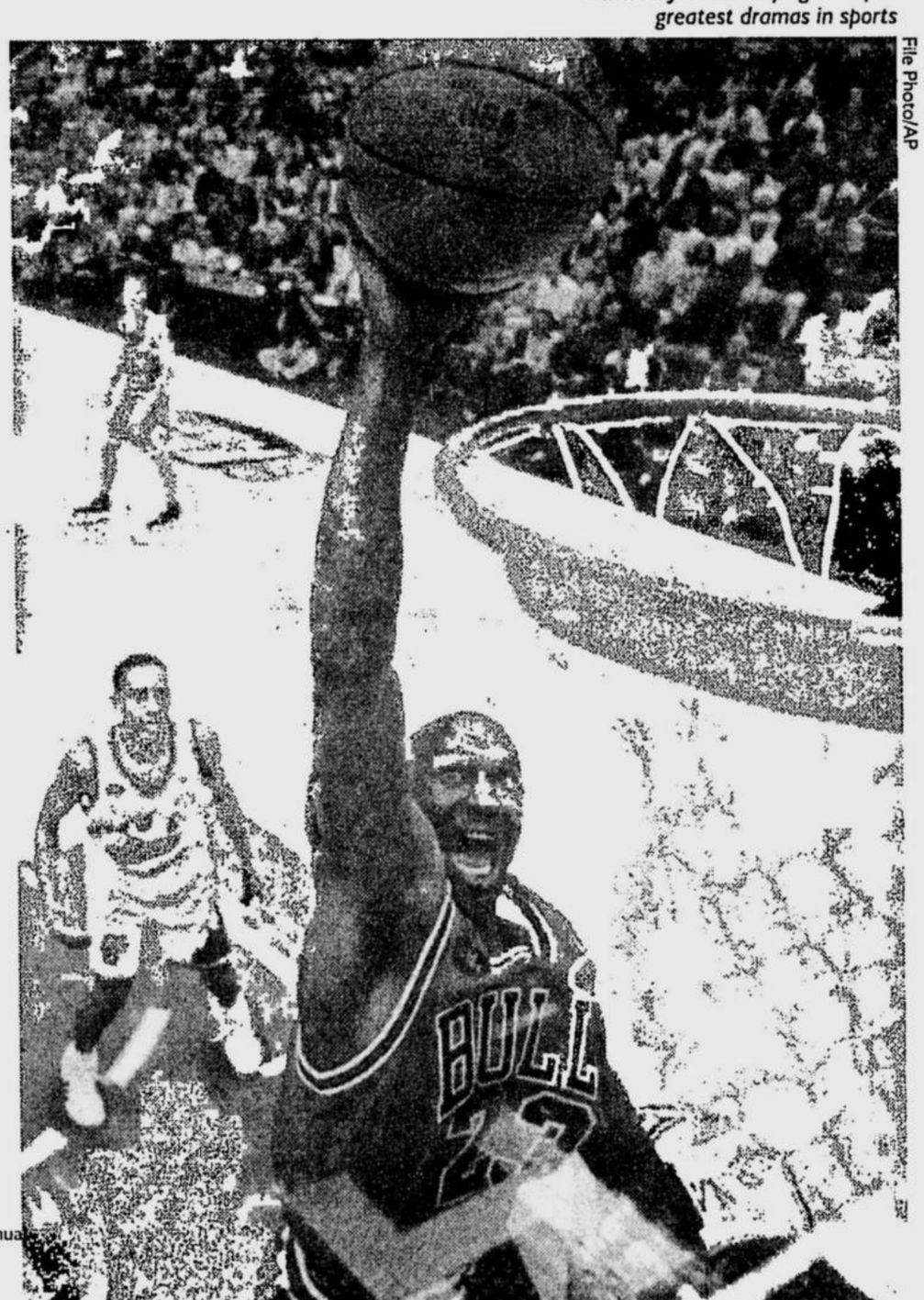
I WAS WATCHING THE GREATEST WORLD SERIES GAME OF ARGUABLY THE GREATEST WORLD SERIES OF ALL TIME. THE YANKEES VS. THE DIAMONDBACKS. GAME 7. SPORTS HISTORY.

"So let me get this straight," says a friend of mine. "You'll die if you miss a second of this game." She was indiscreet enough to call me during one of the greatest games I'll ever see in my lifetime. I said that I would call her back. Although I may have sounded rude, I believe that I was being reasonable. I can always talk to my friends any day, but the most unbelievable baseball game in history doesn't even happen once in 20 years, let alone in 20 days. But of course, they don't get it. "They" is anyone who has ever uttered the phrase, "it's just a stupid game."

Watching "stupid" games sounds a lot more benign than it really is. My life is peppered with anecdotes that prove this. In fact, my psychological profile probably reads more like a sports almanac. In 1990, after Michael Jordan hit his legendary game-winning jumper over Craig Ehlo to clinch their first round playoff series against the heavily favored Cleveland Cavaliers, I ran screaming out of the house in horror. In 1995, after Mario Elie stuck a dagger in my heart by hitting a three-pointer in the closing second of game 7 of the Rockets-Suns playoff series, capping off the Rockets' unprecedented comeback from a 1-3 series deficit, I caused perplexed worry as I sat in the garage for over an hour in inconsolable despair. In 1999, when Larry Johnson hit a three-pointer as he was fouled in the closing seconds of Game 4 of the Knicks' series against the Pacers, which the Knicks eventually won, my euphoria awakened people who thought I was genuinely going mad. In other words, I don't just watch the games—I drown in them.

All sports junkies share a profound passion for the games. This is why I find it odd that love of sports is often looked at as a shallow preoccupation and mentioned in the same breath as, say, designer fashion. Meanwhile, we marvel at someone who goes to the theater every weekend and handily quotes Chekhov at the dinner table. There is a double standard here that is not at all justified.

Michael Jordan: Playing out life's greatest dramas in sports



File Photo/AP

A fact which escapes everyone is that sports and art are of the same fabric. Albert Camus, the great 20th century French novelist and philosopher, defined art as a rebel movement against reality. Artists essentially mourn the lack of grace and meaning in life. "If the world were clear," he said, "art would not exist." We could see, in the paintings of Van Gogh, the prose of Shakespeare, the poetry of Whitman, that they manipulate the elements of nature in such a way that creates an image of reality as they wish it were.

So do athletes. Through a make-believe world with man-made rules, they give us drama, grace, and the element of surprise — things that are scarce in the trifles of humdrum modern-day existence. We are not shallow geeks who do not appreciate the finer things in life; in fact, we yearn for them and relish them as they unfold in baskets, touchdowns or homeruns. They are often taken for granted, but sports are among the most beautiful things in this world that lack rhyme or reason.

We have seen the greatest dramas played out in sports. "Seen," not "heard" in oral tradition. We have seen the Yankees fall tragically like the once invincible Achilles. We have seen Ginebra San Miguel topple the giant that was Shell like David surprising Goliath in game 7 of the 1992 Reinforced Conference championship, with Rudy Distrito's baseline floater looming above the outstretched arms of Benjie Paras serving as the proverbial slingshot. We have seen the mighty Chicago Bulls of the 1995-1996 season devastate the competition on their way to a 72-10 win record, like Hercules slaying every challenger that came his way. We have seen the classics and the great nail-biters.

The notion that sports is a masculine or "macho" preoccupation is a huge misconception. There is nothing more melodramatic than seeing grown men fidgeting in their seats, their cold hands clasped together, and their faces stricken with an undistracted concern that borders on queasiness. Worse, some even get misty-eyed at the sight of their favorite player's last game, for instance. Not that there's anything wrong with that (I suppose). But I'm sure that at one point in their lives, these same men have mocked certain women for crying at movies or soap operas.

Are sports fans taking the games too seriously as well?

Following the September 11 tragedy, the American sports world screeched to a halt, now burdened with a sense of anxiety as to its place in society. The truism spread all across America: there's more to life than sports. That's true. And that is why, as evidenced by the recently concluded World Series, America needs sports now more than they ever did. This is not a contradiction, because sports — like art.— is transcendent. While the world makes less and less sense, we look at the things that always had: the plays of Shakespeare, the paintings of Picasso, the books of the Bible, the movies of Spielberg, and the great moments in sports, among others. The truth is real life will forever be lacking in reason, grace and highlight reels. That is why human imagination has survived centuries. So excuse us as we scream, slap high-fives or pump fists.

Maybe the next time somebody calls me in a middle of a great game, I'll have something better to say. "I'm rebelling against an imperfect world right now. Can I call you back later?"

The author is 23, a marketing management graduate, and a devout sports fan.

Transmogrification

Horns grow from within me
and break the shell of my body.
Woman, devil or sphinx?
I no longer ask who I am.
Heads tails wings
Beaks nails or scales
Beauty beast
I no longer want.
I cannot stop to look
at myself in the water.
All I am is all I am
and I fear no more God's
wrath, Hell's furnaces,
the coldest night,

and I have no need of a friend.

S.B. Alojamiento

Sakali't Ako'y Usigin nina Marx, Lenin at Mao Habang Nasa Iyong Piling

Sakali't ako'y usigin ng mga puna't pagtutuwid
ng aking mga gurong sina Marx, Lenin at Mao
habang ikaw ay kapiling,
giliw ko,
aking sasahurin sa duguang mga bituin
ang kanilang karnal na awa
pagkat ako'y umiibig
sa isang masa.
Ilalapat ni Marx ang kanyang diyalektika
sa relasyon natin: "personal ang politika"
vis a vis, internal n'yong nagugutom ang siyang
magpapasiya.
Hindi sambayanan ang siyang maghihiwalay
sa atin kundi ang mga sirkumstansiya
na kung ang layo ko ma'y milya-milya
habang nakikidigma
ang makasama kang laging dikta ng puso
ay siyang sumpa ko sa dulo ng punglo –
sambayanan ang siyang magkakasal sa atin.
Ako'y nabubuhay
sa mabigat na kahirapang pasan sa balikat,
pang-aaliping sa kanila'y nakatanikala,
daang taong pang-aaping isasalin sa anak,
ibig kong magwakas.
Kalahati ko'y ibig maglingkod sa nagugutom
kahati ko sa layong lumaya ang mga bilanggo
sasalo ako sa daloy ng sumasalungat sa agos
Hawakan mo
ang mga bagay na naglalaro sa aking isip
taluntunin mo ang sikdo ng aking dibdib

Sabay nating lutasin ang talinhaga
sa basyo ng tinta at tingga.

Mark Anthony Angeles

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Cover Story

By P.D. Lumicao
Associate Editor, INQ7.net
Photographs by Edwin Bacasmas

People of the Palace

As Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo marks her first year in office, SUNDAY MIRROR follows the men and women who keep house for the lady and ask: Is she comfortable enough in Malacañang to attend to the everyday business of running a country?

THE FIRST STIRRINGS OF LIFE IN THE FIRST HOUSEHOLD BEGIN AT THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE, WHEN PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WAKES UP AT 5:30 A.M. ALREADY, DOCUMENTS SUMMARIZING THE ASSORTED INFORMATION GATHERED BY VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES THE PAST 24 HOURS ARE WAITING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES. A CLOSE-IN AIDE BRINGS HER BROADSHEETS AND CLIPPINGS FROM THE TABLOIDS. AIDE STAFF SERGEANT HERMIE CUNTAD (OR SSG. VIVIAN TUNACAO OR CIVILIAN JOANNA RODRIGUEZ, WHOEVER IS ON DUTY) ALSO BRINGS THE PRESIDENT A CUP OF TEA AND A TRAY OF FRUITS. THE PRESIDENT SOMETIMES SIPS THE TEA AND FORKS A SLICE OF PAPAYA WHILE PORING OVER THE DOCUMENTS AND THE DAY'S NEWS.

Gotta look good: Makeup artist Gener Miranda works on the President for a Baguio interview, as First Gentleman Mike Arroyo looks on, left; food and beverage chief Thelma Valdepeñas, head of housekeeping Fatima Abad-Santos Valdes and housekeeping assistant Jun Mogado, above

The phone begins to ring at just about the same hour. Or sometimes, it's the President herself who orders Hermie (or Joanna or Vivian) to call some people she would like to speak to. Between phone calls, the President squeezes in a trip to the toilet and then to the bathroom for a hot shower. At about the same time, make-up and hair-stylist Gener Miranda arrives with his valuable make-up kit.

"The President is not vain about her looks. She doesn't have to be, because she is naturally beautiful," Gener gushes. For 15 minutes, Gener brushes and blow-dries the President's short, straight one-

Cover Story

People of the Palace

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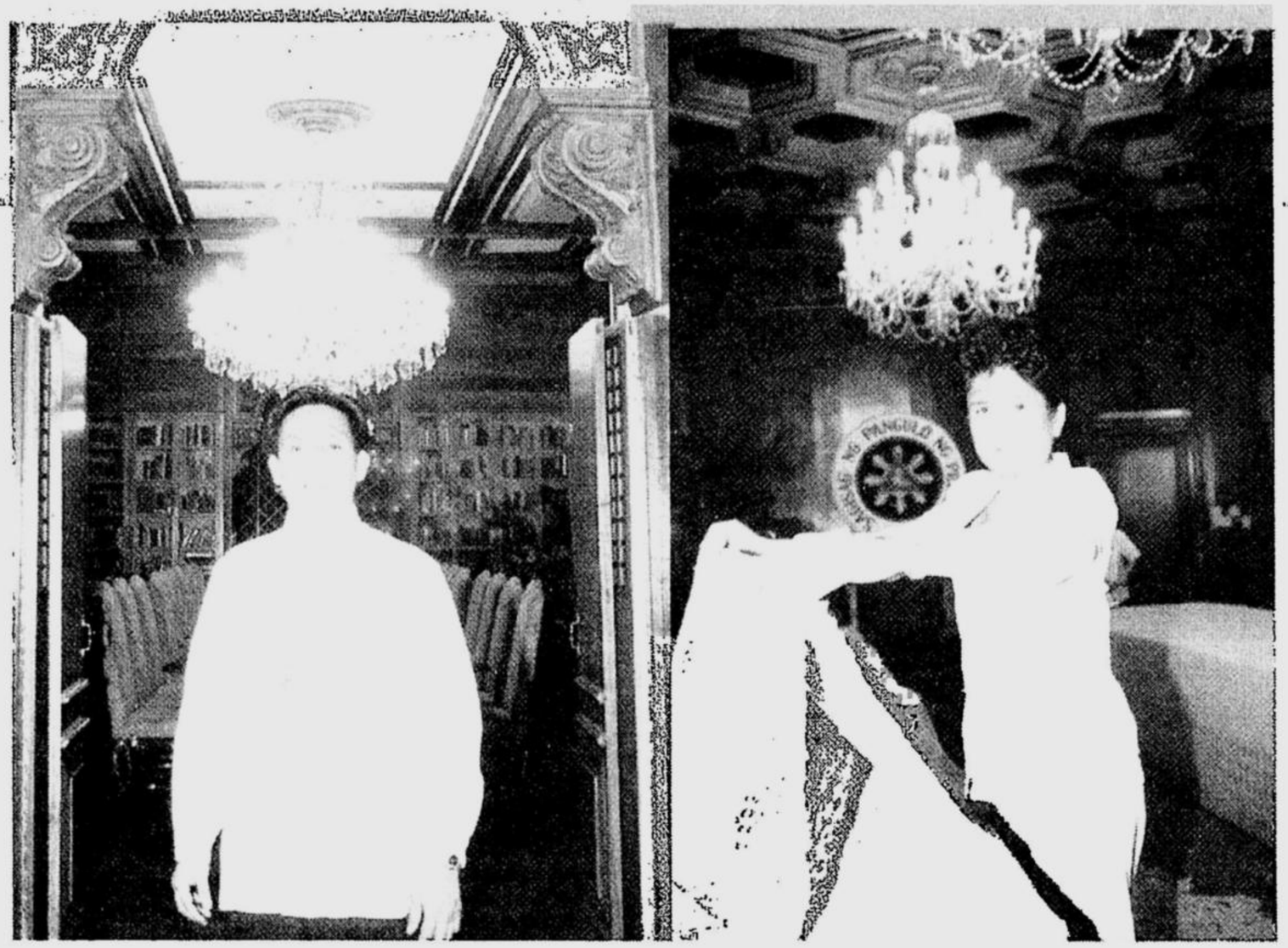

length cut. Her outfit for the day is selected from a wardrobe prepared by her image consultant, former model Joanne Zapanta-Andrada, internationally acclaimed designer Inno Sotto, and stylist JC Buendia. The clothes are chosen according to her schedule. A periwinkle tailored dress is chosen for the morning activities, which includes a meeting with the Makati Business Club at 10 a.m. It's the same dress she's going to wear for the Cabinet meeting at 2 p.m. But for her dinner with the foreign media, the President opts for a popsicle-pink tailored suit, the same suit she wore in a Malacañang function last month.

The President sits quietly as Gener does wonders on her face. He also tells her, in jest: "Ma'am, *kahit ano pong galing ng* make-up artist, *ang magpapalabas po ng magandang* aura *ay ang magandang* mood." ("The best aura enhancer is a good mood.")

At past seven, the President's personal secretary Erlinda de Leon arrives and reports to her. Actually, it's also a look-see at Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo's total look. Has she got that well-put-together appearance, as *fashionistas* often say? Hermie (or Joanna or Vivian) voices her appreciation as Gener arranges a loose strand of hair. The shoes, a handbag and minimal accessories – a single strand of pearls – all for a non-nonsense, hardworking Chief Executive.

At the Chapel, Monsignor Augusto Laban of the nearby San Miguel parish also begins preparing for the mass. At exactly 8 a.m., the President arrives at the chapel to take her daily communion and listen to Monsignor Laban's three-minute sermon. Sometimes, the First Gentleman Atty. Jose Miguel Arroyo joins her. Sometimes, it's one of her children – Mikey, Lulli or Dato. But if none of them can make it, the President doesn't make a fuss.

And so with God's blessings, Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo begins her day as President, and Malacañang is officially open for business.

RUNNING Malacañang as a household requires an army of 200 men and women who work in shifts and have to pass through rigid security checks. "The work never stops because the President never stops working," said head of the Internal Housekeeping Affairs Office (IHAO) Assistant Secretary Fatima "Nena" Abad Santos-Valdes.

The IHAO takes charge of keeping house for the President and her family, which is no joke. "We try our best to keep up with her standards, and so far we are doing our best," Valdes continues. Basically, Valdes says the President wants it "thrifty, spartan and clean."

It's a trait that Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo inherited from her mother, the late First Lady Evangelina Macapagal. "She is not fussy, but she wants everything clean," Valdes says, adding that's just like the Gloria she met at the Assumption Convent in the '60s. In fact, when she took over in January, Ms Macapagal-Arroyo's first directive was for the household to manage with whatever was there. "There was enough linen, silver and china, so we didn't really have to buy more," Valdes said.

She suggested one thing to the President, which the President rejected. "I suggested that I move one of the better beds to her suite, but she refused. Okay *na daw yung napili niya*, so we placed what she wanted." Valdes had also wanted to put up a bathtub in the Presidential suite, but again Ms Macapagal ruled this out. So what she has is basically a shower.

The suites of former President Marcos and former First Lady Imelda Marcos have jacuzzis, king-and queen-size beds and walk-in closets. The suites have been converted into offices, however, not as residences for the Macapagal-Arroyos.

The kitchen is one of the busiest areas, according to Valdes. Food, for quite a number of people, is prepared from morning to night, or for as long as the President has guests. There is always the old, reliable catering service for "big functions," but the day-to-day meals for the President must, as a rule, come from her own kitchen.

Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo insists that the cooking be done at the old Malacañang kitchen, not the kitchen in the Guest House which former President Joseph Estrada had refurbished to five-star hotel standards. But then, even the daily presidential menu, which is prepared by Malacañang's food and beverage chief Thelma Valdepeñas, includes nothing fancy. The Malacañang kitchen prepares food for the President when she is in Malacañang or aboard the plane, chopper or her limousine. The Malacañang kitchen is practically moved to the Mansion House in Baguio City whenever the President is there. For her provincial sorties, the Malacañang kitchen packs the President's food, which is served only after a food-taster has tried it. (As in, if the food is poisoned, the food-taster dies first before the poison gets to the President.)

The President's breakfast, which is more often skipped than eaten, may consist of pancakes or the Filipino ensemble of *sinangag, daing* and tomatoes. "She wants it complete, like if there is fish, there is meat, then there's vegetables and soup," Valdes reveals.

The President, however, has a "weakness" for *taho*, according to Valdes' assistant Jun Mogado. "She doesn't ask for it, but when she was gifted with *taho* some months ago, she really relished it," Mogado recalls.

Food, linen and even furniture arrangements are not left to chance. Rose Pambid, housekeeping supervisor, knows exactly when to bring down the draperies at the Music Room, or what table napkins would match the tablecloth at the Heroes Hall. She's been on the job since the Marcos regime.

Furniture arrangement has its own protocol, says Jesus Notarte Jr., head of internal furniture arrangement. Sunday INQUIRER caught up with Notarte arranging the elegant narra table for the signing ceremony between the President and visiting Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the Ceremonial Hall one day in January. He said the rules are basic: a table for a signing ceremony, no tables for a courtesy call.

The grand chandeliers and the wall-to-wall carpets are cleaned and vacuumed on schedule. The garden must be well kept, and the hedges well trimmed. The floors, walls and balusters must be free of dust. And there are also the mirrors, the paintings, sculptures, books etc. which have to be dusted and wiped to a sparkling finish befitting a President and her guests.

Unfortunately for Valdes, the housekeepers could not clean the Pasig River enough to the President's standards.

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Pulling in the tourists is just half the battle, says Hong Kong-based Filipino hotelier Sonny Ang. But disproving stereotypes about Pinoys in international circles remains an unspoken part of his job

Global Hotelier

APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING. SONNY ANG, MARKETING DIRECTOR OF HOLIDAY INN HONG KONG, APPEARS TO BE YOUR AVERAGE AMIABLE, SAVVY HOTEL GURU, HIS EVER-READY BAG OF ANSWERS TO THE USUAL TOURIST QUERY LACED WITH THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF CHEER. BUT A COUPLE OF MINUTES INTO THE CONVERSATION, HIS WORDS, NEVER LOSING THEIR LIGHTNESS, BECOME MORE ANIMATED. SOON ENOUGH, HE'S PEPPERED YOU WITH EXCITING DETAILS OF WHAT MAKES THE CITY OF COMMERCE TICKS.

True, it's part of his high-pressure job to sell Hong Kong to the locals and tourists alike. However, Sonny, the only Filipino among his international colleagues in the Crown Colony's hotel industry, is genuinely in love with his product. Ten years away from his native Philippines, this Australian green card holder can't think of another place where he'd like to settle down for good. That is probably what makes Pressure his middle name. Intensity follows a close second.

The Philippines has become one of the aces up his sleeve. "Marketing directors see our country as a small market. They don't realize that many Filipinos travel to Hong Kong just to shop"

"Many people just see the glamor, the wining and dining, the traveling involved in my job," he notes. "They don't see the hard work and negotiations. You have to deliver the revenues and meet the required budget. If you don't, you're out. Especially here." Then, without missing a beat, he volunteers, "That's what I like about Hong Kong."

Being the sole Filipino in a position filled exclusively by natives of Hong Kong, Australia, and Canada was another challenge Sonny had to hurdle in the early days, especially when he was called from his Bangkok post at the most inopportune time. Great Britain had just handed Hong Kong back to China and uncertainty about the future had caused stocks to dip and businesses to plummet. Holiday Inn Hong Kong itself laid off 250 employees.

"The staff were all looking at me to perform a miracle so they can keep their jobs," he remembers his first day wryly. "They know that if management brought in an expat –me!—then I must be able to do something that the others can't."

Then, of course, given his Filipino citizenship, there was the subtle but keenly felt association with the domestic helper stereotype. In a country that counts only typhoons for disasters and in a society maintained by a smoothly functioning infrastructure, Sonny found himself contending with all the "bad news coming from the Philippines. The floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, calamities, bombings, kidnappings." Every time he mentioned his land of birth, he could almost hear the unspoken question: "You came from this country where all these tragedies occur?"

The stereotype would soon vanish. Since his tenure, Holiday Inn has climbed from its number 4 position to number 2. The quotas are being met. His summary of his present posting comes as an understatement: "I'm still safe." Several marketing directors in the competition have either resigned or been transferred to different global branches.

The Philippines has also become one of the aces up his sleeve. Marketing directors are always under pressure to explore new markets and bring in new clients. "They see the Philippines as a small market. I don't agree," he shrugs. "They don't realize that many Filipinos travel to Hong Kong just to shop."

Sonny's first taste of the service industry came from his childhood. The eldest of five Filipino-Chinese children, he helped out in the family-owned restaurant. A degree in Hotel Restaurant Administration was inevitable. His very first job at the Manila Pavilion was at the front desk, handing out keys to the guests. He found it boring — and secretly envied the sales people who spent a lot of time entertaining clients and jet-setting to other countries. Shifting to sales, Sonny rose through the ranks steadily, eventually landing the regional sales manager post in the Westin Philippine Plaza. It was only a matter of time before he was drafted into the global hotel industry, offered a high-paying job with perks by Shangri-La Plaza Shanghai.

Flying to China in November, his first shock was the sight of bare trees that had weathered a storm. This reminder of monsters from "an old Darna movie" was the beginning of his cultural immersion. The weather swung like a pendulum: to the young manager from the tropics, it was either too cold or so hot that even the schools would send their students home. His Chinese staff members, though, welcomed their new teacher despite the language barrier. "I had to teach social graces and marketing basics like how to close a sale. China had been closed to the rest of the world for 50 years. When I came in, the Chinese were very aggressive in their learning, like a sponge absorbing everything." Sonny fulfilled his four-year contract without learning the native dialect.

His stint in the Regent in Bangkok slowed him down a bit, "like a car running at 180 mph then screeching to 30 mph. Thailand is tranquil, its people act like they're not in a hurry." He also had to tone down his candor. "The Thais have a monarchy. Their Buddhist culture is very respectful of people. If I scold my employees, I have to do it behind closed doors."

Hong Kong with its fast-walking people suits him just fine, "Here, time is money. You do all your work in the day so you can have more free time for yourself."

And how does he enjoy his private moments? Daily gym workouts, three hours everyday. "I have to keep fit," he says laughingly. "Here, you have to match your pace to run the race."

Sonny poses with a bridal entourage at the hotel

Public Servants
by Michael Lim Ubac

Into the Limelight

As the Office of the Solicitor hurdles its 100th year, Simeon Marcelo, the man in the hot seat, reveals how he never planned to take on the job as the top lawyer of the Philippine government

HE'S BETTER KNOWN THESE DAYS AS THE FIRST CASUALTY OF CONTROVERSIAL PRESS COORDINATOR MANUEL SANCHEZ'S PRESS GAG FOR HIS STATEMENT ON THE SAN MIGUEL BEER-KIRIN DEAL. SUCH PUBLIC SCOLDING COMES WITH HIS JOB AS SOLICITOR GENERAL, SAYS SIMEON V. MARCELO, WHO EXPRESSED LUKEWARM SUPPORT FOR THE $540 MILLION DEAL THAT WOULD ALLOW THE JAPANESE BREWERY KIRIN TO BUY INTO SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION.

He has always viewed his office not only as the staunch defender of the national government and all its attached agencies, but "as the Tribune of the people"

The admonition, it turned out, was Malacanang's usual way of soft-pedalling an issue that might spoil the recent state visit of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Marcelo shrugs off the mixed reactions to his adverse comment. He has always viewed his office not only as the staunch defender of the national government and all its attached agencies, but "as the Tribune of the people." Sometimes, he adds of the office that marked its centennial last December, "the Solgen takes a position different from that of the government."

Marcelo believes that the Kirin deal would "dilute" the value of the existing shares of the country's coconut farmers and allow Kirin and the group of SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco to gain "effective control" of the beer company. "On its face, it will look favorable (to San Miguel). The problem is that we don't know if the investment will benefit all the stockholders or the corporation alone. That's why we need to clarify these things first."

Such lingering doubts about the deal are now water under the bridge. Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao has admitted that the government would drop its opposition to the deal as long as Arroyo-appointed government nominees are allowed to sit in all crucial committees of San Miguel.

The high profile comment isn't typical of Marcelo, however. Far from shooting from the hip, the guy doesn't make a move without a plan or strategy. Yet in most of the crucial moments of his life, destiny always prevails.

Marcelo, who comes from a poor family in Nueva Ecija, never dreamt of working for the government. A street toughie when he was young, he once aspired for the priesthood but left the seminary after only three years and ended up with four kids "to serve" and a wife "to love."

Setting his sights on the prominent Accra law firm, he eventually left the partnership after only two years and ended up at the Carpio Villaraza & Cruz Law Offices, where he spent his last 20 years.

At 48, Marcelo had intended to slow down at 50 and retire at 55 to concentrate on teaching and NGO work. But three years before he turned 50, destiny again intervened.

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High point: Marcelo questions Singson during the Impeachment trial

The Word

by Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Eight Meditations on the Santo Niño

Treating the Santo Niño like a spoiled brat, dolling up his image like a fashion mannequin and bringing it to parties like a walking doll, is not how a mature Christian is supposed to express his faith

1. WHENEVER I VISIT THE TONDO CHURCH TO SAY "HELLO" AND "THANK YOU" TO MY FAVORITE SANTO NIÑO, I AM NOT REALLY TALKING TO THE BABY JESUS OF CHRISTMAS BUT TO THE ADULT RISEN CHRIST OF EASTER SUNDAY. I AM ACTUALLY DOING A "FLASHBACK" BY AGAIN MEETING THE CHILD IN ME, AND REMEMBERING THE "GREAT THINGS THE MIGHTY GOD HAS DONE FOR ME." (LK. 1:40)

2. Every time I stir up in myself that sense of wonder and capacity for surprise, I am waking up the child in me to experience again what it is to be born anew and to live life fully. (Jn. 10:10)

3. Devotion to a child is charming indeed. It wakes up the child in us, and makes us face life with a renewed sense of awe. Devotion to the Santo Niño also makes us laugh at our incongruities and keeps us from believing the myth that we are superstars and demigods.

4. The miracles we attribute to the Santo Niño, which we believe are signs of God's victory over sickness and sin, are actually the fruits of the Death and Resurrection not of the Baby Jesus (Santo Niño) but of the Man Jesus, grown up, who died and rose again to save us. Since the Risen Christ is a mature Christ, he expects us to respond in a mature way.

5. Trivializing our devotion to the Santo Niño by treating the Santo Niño like a spoiled brat, dolling up his image like a fashion mannequin, talking to his icon and even bringing it to parties like a walking doll, is not how a mature Christian is supposed to express his faith.

6. One mature way of practicing devotion to the Santo Niño is to get involved in advocacy, dialogues and community action in defense of the rights of the poor especially children, among them the children of separated parents, the children of prisoners and refugees, the children of pushcart families, the child victims of war, the young victims of parental cruelty and abuse, the victims of criminal abortion, the children of tribal minorities, child laborers and young victims of unjust labor practices, as well as the physically and mentally handicapped children.

7. Our devotion to the Santo Niño, therefore, should derive its full evangelical meaning only from our personal spiritual encounter with the grown-up Risen Christ of Today and Forever—the Christ who has died, is risen and will come again.

8. As I start to live out my last year before I hit 70, I intend my devotion to the Santo Niño to grow and develop into a personal resolve to think, act and look my age. I intend to reinvent myself as one who can adjust gracefully and gratefully to the reality of being 70 without trying hard to look as cute as my Santo Niño in Tondo, and yet remaining like a little child in my heart.

Sto. Niño on speed: Treating the Child Jesus like a tyke on a trike

COVER...from page 7

ACTIVITY in the Palace follows the President's schedule. A state dinner is one Presidential appointment that brings the entire household to its feet. "A state dinner is like a ballet," says Ambassador George Reyes, protocol officer of Malacañang, as Sunday INQUIRER is treated to the spectacle of scores of waiters gliding around the tables in a dry run of the dinner for Prime Minister Koizumi.

The success of the state dinner depends of the collaborative efforts of Reyes, Valdes and Bettina Aboitiz, who is Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo's social secretary. This is insofar as the dinner itself is concerned. Outside the Palace, the Presidential Security Group (PSG) is also neck-deep in work, securing the guests and the perimeter.

The flowers on the table are fresh, but not exactly freshly picked. "We recycle the flowers because the President prefers it that way. *Kung saan makakatipid*, we do it," says Aboitiz. Indeed, the flower arrangements were there during the Vin d'Honneur for the ambassadors and diplomats the night before. Trimming off wilted twigs and petals, and with a little rearrangement, the bouquets did look good as new. Thus, when Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo glides into the Ceremonial Hall for the state dinner with Minister Koizumi, everything would have been in its appointed place.

"The President wakes up very early, and sleeps very late," says Valdes, noting that the "workaholic" President even brings the paper work to the presidential suite. She would also grab some minutes to get on the treadmill in the family den.

But not tonight with the state dinner, it would seem. Surrounded by the country's most distinguished personalities, led by former presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo practically glows. Gener had retouched her make-up and fixed her hair. No problem in the retouch, Gener says. "*Hindi siya pawisin* (she doesn't sweat much), *madaling i*-maintain *ang* make-up *niya*."

The President's personal army is here: Reyes takes a final look at the seating arrangement. Aboitiz mingles with the guests while the usherettes politely escort them to their tables. Valdes fusses about like a *majordoma*, but she does it so gaily she's fluttering like a butterfly.

When the dinner is over, Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo, accompanied either by Hermie, Joanna or Vivian (whoever is on duty), will return to her suite, the bed already made up to provide rest after a long day's work. The hot shower is working. There's hot tea if she wants; Valdes had made sure of that. Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo's dainty pale gold gown will most probably go to the dry-laundry bag. At other times, her clothes just go straight to the Malacañang laundry, managed by *Aling* Huling, who has been a member of the First Household since Macapagal's time. And we mean Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. Indeed, it is the job of the Palace staffers to make sure life's little details are all ironed out – and the top executive of the land can run the country in utmost comfort.

With a report by Lira Dalangin, INQ7.net

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Paglalarawan

PUBLIC...from page 9

Last year, he was tapped by House prosecutors to prepare the testimony of "Juetengate" whistleblower Luis "Chavit" Singson for the aborted impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada. He even conducted the direct examination on Singson, which was the most awaited moment in the historic trial.

"It was a coincidence," Marcelo says of his first public appearance in a case dubbed as the country's trial of the century, no less. It was his first taste of real fame and, historic though it might be, Marcelo thought it would be the end of his public career. He had looked forward to resuming a quiet but well-planned and comfortable life.

Until destiny again showed its hand and President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed him as the government's top lawyer. "It was a tough call," says the elusive head of the Solgen Office, who says he'd rather spend time playing soccer with his kids than mingling with top brass.

"Actually, I accepted the job with a condition that I be allowed to leave after two years. The demands of the job are such that my health will deteriorate if I continue serving as the Solgen beyond two years," he says.

Indeed, Marcelo works late, sleeps at 1 am and is at his desk by 8 in the morning. He even works on weekends and on holidays. His only break, aside from the occasional book and movie, is cracking jokes. "I used to be good at telling jokes. Now, I'm corny," he laughs.

"I have no choice, I have to work. The whole country is counting on the Solgen to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and the coco levy," Marcelo stresses.

His work covers everything from the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's coco levy funds to the Kuratong-Baleleng cases against former police chief and now Senator Panfilo Lacson.

Marcelo hails from the sleepy town of Sta. Rosa in Nueva Ecija, the only son of Leoncio, a clerk, and Nieves. He recalls a happy childhood with his only sibling, Teresita, a nurse who, he says, spoiled him. "*Siga ang mga tao do'n* (the people there are toughies)," he says of the country folks in his village. "That's why I grew up beating my playmates." His marriage, the UP Law graduate reveals, was another surprising turn in his life. It was totally unplanned, he adds. Because of his workaholic nature, Marcelo says he did not find the time to look for the right woman until he turned 34.

Meeting Anna Atienza, who was raised in Labo, Camarines Sur and who later became his wife, came as a total surprise. "I was supposed to date her best friend," recalls Marcelo. That best friend, however, kissed and made up with her boyfriend before the date. "She asked me instead to get Anna, her best friend, as a substitute date," he says wryly.

Reluctanly, he met Anna at this Japanese restaurant on Pasay Road, Makati, in March 1986. He was so mesmerized by her that nine months later, they tied the knot. They now have four kids aged 13, 11, 10 and 5.

Looks like the priesthood's loss has been a gain for quite a few people – including the government.

This Week

Art

What Do You Feel Like?, an exhibit of visual works by Kaye Anne Alba, Ednaida Marie Gonzales, Lea Lim, Elena Malgapo and Jiyas Suministrado, until Feb. 27 at Likha-Diwa sa Gulod, Krus na Ligas, QC.

Olympus: The House of God, a collection of pen and ink drawings by Janos Delacruz until Jan. 30 at the Madrigal Art Center in Ayala Alabang.

"The King is Dancing," showing in the Best of Cinemanila at Greenbelt

LoveLock, a hair and photo exhibit featuring unique hairstyles by French hairstylist Eric Faury and photographer Neal Oshima who did experimental shots using special light effects. Image models include Tina Maristela Ocampo, Ida Campo, Joan Bitagcol, Nicolette Belle, Lisa Santiago, Heidi and Hani Koch, Angel Aquino and Chin Chin Gutierrez. Exhibit runs until Jan. 25 at the Alliance Francaise, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. For details, call 895-7441.

Music

***Linggo ng* IR** (UST-Institute of Religion) will feature a concert by Dominican priests' band, inggo 1587, on Jan. 25, 6 p.m. at the Medicine Cinematorium, Medicine Building.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

The Philippine High School for the Arts and the Cultural Center of the Philippines present **Ondine *(Nimfa ng Lawa),*** Jean Giraudoux's fairy tale drama about the love between a water nymph and a knight, featuring the PHSA's graduating Theater Arts scholars. Performances today at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, CCP. For tickets, call 852-7618 to 19 or text 0917-9911529.

Romeo and Juliet will be staged in its original English form by the Gantimpala Theater Foundation at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo on Jan. 20 with 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. shows. The play will move to the JCS Auditorium (Paco Catholic School, Pedro Gil, Manila) on Jan. 26-27 and then to the RFC Theater, Alabang, Zapote Road on Feb. 1-3. A special performance is scheduled on Feb. 8 at 8 p.m. at the AFP Theater. For inquiries, call 899-5745 or 897-1533.

Concert at the Park presents **Variacciones,** popular ballets for children brought to life by the members of the Australian Conservatoire of Ballet, Jan. 20, 5 p.m. at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, Manila. Free admission.

CCP's Tanghalang Pilipino presents Carlo Godoni's comedy ***Ang Sinungaling,*** about Lelio (played by Boboy Garrovillo), a young cad about town in search of pretty conquests who resorts to telling outrageous lies to capture the girl of his dreams, and gets into trouble for it. To be staged at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute on Jan. 25 at 8 p.m.; Jan. 20, 26 and 27 at 3 p.m. For tickets, call 832-1125 loc. 1620 or Ticketworld at 891-5610.

Cinema

The screenings for **Best of Cinemanila** have been extended until Jan. 22 at Greenbelt 1 Cinema in Makati. Among the award-winning films that will be shown are Korea's "Chunhyang" and "Happy End," Thailand's "Jan Dara" and "Tears of the Black Tiger" and Belgium's "The King Is Dancing." For screening schedule, call 412-7686 or 371-8821.

Filmless Films in cooperation with Ayala Cinemas present **Mov: The Digital Moviefest** on Jan. 23 to 30 at Greenbelt Cinema 1. For details, call 433-3496 or 921-8434 or visit www.mov.moviespage.com. Volunteers are welcome.

Atbp

Astrology & The Filipino Culture, Resti H. Santiago will discuss astrological principles hidden among early Filipino beliefs and practices through examples of moon lore, and the development of astrology in the Philippines, Jan. 23, 5:30 p.m. at Filipinas Heritage Library. Admission fee is P80. For details, call 892-1801.

Laff & Learn at the Museo Pambata. Watch ventriloquist Ony Carcamo and his amusing band of puppets as they teach the importance of proper nutrition in keeping our bodies healthy through this extraordinary art form on Jan. 24 and 31 at 2 p.m. and Jan. 26 at 10 a.m. For inquiries, call 523-1797.

Probe Media Foundation will hold a **seminar/workshop on video documentation and video journalism** to be conducted by Howie Severino and other producers and videographers of the different Probe Productions Inc. on Jan. 26, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Astoria Plaza, 15 J. Escriva St., Pasig City. Participants must bring their own video cameras, one 1-hour videotape and AV cables. For inquiries, call 922-9273.

Faber-Castell will hold a **lecture and workshop on "Land and Seascape"** on Jan. 26, 1-5 p.m. at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila to be conducted by Fernando Sena. The participants to this activity are selected students from various elementary schools in Metro Manila and awardees of various Faber-Castell art contests who are members of the Little Masters Club. For inquiries, call 361-7391 to 92.

The **Inner Space Manila** (3/F CDC Building, 1195 Maria Orosa St., Ermita, Manila), a study and meditation place being run by Brahma Kumaris, offers the following courses for free: Healthy U! (Jan. 21), Why Vegetarianism? (Jan. 23), Refresh! Softdrink for the Soul (Jan. 28), and Raja Yoga: A Meditation Experience (Jan. 30). All courses start at 5:15 p.m. For inquiries, call 521-2015.

Toys & Stories, storytelling and art session for kids with Melody Remorca, Jan. 26, 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue. Admissions fee is P100. For details, call 892-1801.

Youth and adults are invited to play recreational/educational **Scrabble games** every third Saturday of the month at Mr. Chow Restaurant, YMCA Building (behind Manila City Hall) especially those who use "The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, 3rd edition," the reference recommended by the National Scrabble Association of America. Applied are easy house rules for better play for all. For inquiries, call Alex Lee at 527-8751 loc. 204.

Discover a whole new world of fun and exciting science as Museo Pambata launches the all-new ***Tuklas*! Science Theme Room** on Jan. 26 at 11 a.m. Museo Pambata is located along Roxas Boulevard cor. South Drive, Manila or call 523-1979 to 98.

Intro to Poetry Writing. Learn the language that says something more and says it more intensely than ordinary language on Jan. 27 at the Loyola House, Ateneo, QC. Includes metrical and free verse. For details, call 285-2449.

MTV Philippines and Penshoppe recently launched a nationwide search for five guys and girls who will best personify the MTV and Penshoppe personality and spirit—young, hip, energetic, creative, fun-loving yet responsible—dubbed **MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council.** The winners will be given the opportunity to be VIP hosts at MTV's events and could even be roving reporters for MTV. Some of them will also be awarded modeling contracts from Penshoppe and will be the company's spokespersons. The search is open to boys and girls 14 to 20 years old. They must be bona fide students in the high school or college levels or are actively pursuing studies in DECS-approved programs, must have good scholastic records and preferably active in extra-curricular activities. Interested parties may submit a fully accomplished MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council application form distributed in schools or a biodata with contact number and a three-sentence paragraph stating why the applicant feels he/she is qualified to be part of the council and two 5R photos (one head shot and one full body shot). Submit forms to MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council Search, P.O. Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, 1256 Makati City or drop in boxes set up in participating schools and Penshoppe stores nationwide until Feb. 8. For inquiries, call 848-1321 or email nepomucenor@mtv.asia.com.

A Hands-On Introductory Course on Polyester Resin (figurine making, fiberglass, stained glass, lamination, encapsulation and synthetic granite) will be held on Jan. 24-26. For details, call Polymer Products at 671-9837.

Holiday Inn Manila was recently recognized as a **Child-Friendly Firm** by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP). The hotel was found to be demonstrating success in the following hallmarks of good business—compliance with Philippine labor laws and regulations; known and documented policy of not employing children and ensuring that young workers perform non-hazardous work, and existence of advocacy programs against child exploitation and abuse.

X-manila

Ritual/Life, an exhibit of Sagada photographs, 1976-1982 by Joachim Voss until March 20 at the Sanctuary Gallery at Maryknoll, Camp Sioco, Baguio City. For details, call (074) 442-4602 or 442-4926.

The UPLB Adventist Ministry to College and University Students (AMiCUS) will hold the **2nd Annual AMiCUS Run** on Jan.27 at the UPLB Freedom Park. The program race will start at 6 a.m. This year's theme is Run for a Drug Free, Smoke free and Healthy Campus aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle among students and participants. To join, call (049) 537-4374 or 0919-3433274.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

US starts military buildup in Zamboanga

STORY ON PAGE A2

Chavit sings Erap tune

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

IS that you, Chavit?

The confessed "jueteng" bagman, who exposed the millions in monthly payoffs that former President Joseph Estrada allegedly received from him, is now pushing

CHAVIT/ A15

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inq7.net

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SIN ADVICE TO GMA

'Serve poor, shun media'

BY CARLITO PABLO AND BLANCHE RIVERA

ON THE FIRST anniversary of Edsa II, the influential Archbishop of Manila had a message for President Macapagal-Arroyo: Continue to serve the poor, but do it away from the spotlight.

The President's response: "At present, everyone knows my schedule because it is announced. But starting (Monday), there will be no more media coverage of my visits to the urban poor."

Jaime Cardinal Sin gave the piece of unsolicited advice during a Mass held yesterday at the Edsa Shrine to celebrate the first anniversary of People Power II, with Ms Macapagal, former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos, Estrada whistleblower Luis "Chavit" Singson and about 300 guests attending.

Conspicuously absent was Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.

While "programs for the poor must have a human face," Sin said during his homily, the needy should be served "away from the flashing lights of photographers" because they are "not for decoration and for romantic charity photographs."

In a chance interview after the Mass, the President, speaking in Filipino, said she welcomed the cardinal's counsel "because our dialogues with the poor will be made easier if there are no photographers around."

In his homily, Sin said he was happy that Ms Macapagal was to spend the whole day visiting poor communities because the poor are not only considered the beneficiaries of Edsa II but are "the treasures of the Church and the nation."

"They are the jewels of our society. They are not for decoration and for romantic charity photographs," Sin said.

The prelate said that what the poor need are housing, food, medicine, education, clothing and jobs, echoing the overall thrusts of the

SERVE/ A4

GIVING his blessings to President Macapagal during Sunday's Mass at the Edsa Shrine, Jaime Cardinal Sin tells her in his homily: Your face and your hands must be the face and touch of the programs for the poor. JOAN BONDOC

Mendiola protesters slam GMA 'betrayal'

BY AGNES E. DONATO, PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

THE EDSA Shrine yesterday was the complete opposite of what it was a year ago.

Where there were hundreds of thousand people celebrating the defeat of a "corrupt" president last year, there were only about 500 military and police officers guarding the historic site from protesters yesterday.

The rallies were conducted this time at the Chino Roces Bridge (formerly Mendiola) in Manila, in Quezon City and the cities of Bacolod, Iloilo and Davao by former allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Some 3,000 members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and other militant groups reenacted the historic Edsa II march on Mendiola. They accused Ms Macapagal of "betraying Edsa II."

"The only thing she lacks now is Erap's womanizing, boozing, gambling and brazen corruption. She has even taken to eating with her hands in public. She's a hypocrite like Estrada," Teodoro Casiño, Bayan secretary general, said.

"As far as the majority of the people are concerned, only the faces have changed," he said.

The groups marched from the Nagtahan flyover to Mendiola.

In an ironic twist of fate, the protesters were not able to go to the

MENDIOLA/ A14

FVR: No Edsa 'Tres' but there could be

BY DONNA S. CUETO AND BLANCHE RIVERA

THERE was no such thing as Edsa III. But there could yet be.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos said yesterday that securing political stability remained the primary task facing President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Political stability must be "perceived, seen and actualized" because "people power cannot again and again (be used to) substitute for strong democratic institutions," Ramos said in a statement distributed at the Edsa Shrine.

"But we may never have such stability for as long as civil society must intervene in yet another people power movement to repudiate a specific administration or overthrow a government."

Such instability will not come by way of a military coup, the self-styled "coup fighter expert" suggested.

The Macapagal administration need not worry about the military mounting a coup, Ramos said, because none will be attempted.

Ramos, now Macapagal's special emissary to the international community, refused to classify the events that ended with the May 1, 2001 siege of Malacañang as another Edsa uprising.

"There (was) no 'Edsa III' on May 1. That was nothing," he said.

In fact, the May 1 uprising was

FVR/ A14

Troops watch Edsa Shrine –and girls

BY LUIGE A. DEL PUERTO

AWAY from the harsh jungle and terrible fighting in the Southern Philippines, soldiers consider it a luxury guarding the Edsa Shrine.

Their favorite pastime? Girl watching, according to their officer.

"To sleep on the cemented floor of this beautiful work of art is luxury for us," said Capt. Richard Sibayan, assistant operations officer of the 200-strong contingent guarding the shrine.

In fact, according to Sibayan, such duty gives him and his men something extra—watching beautiful women pass by on their way to the chapel below or the nearby malls.

"It rarely happens, you know," he said, grinning mischievously.

"Ninety-five percent of us here had either seen action against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front last year or the Abu Sayyaf this year, or both," Sibayan said.

Sibayan, a member of the elite First Army Scout Ranger Regiment-Special Operations Command, had participated in suicide missions in efforts to capture the Abu Sayyaf's lair in the mountains of Sulu last year.

He said his unit had to cling to roots or vines, and sleep light to survive, enduring the chilling cold and the mosquitoes constantly biting them.

"Our job is to secure the shrine, this is a sacred place, and we're following orders. We really enjoy

TROOPS/ A14

Estrada cash gift ends up in charity

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

A CASH gift of P50,000 handed over by deposed President Joseph Estrada to the INQUIRER has found its way to different beneficiaries.

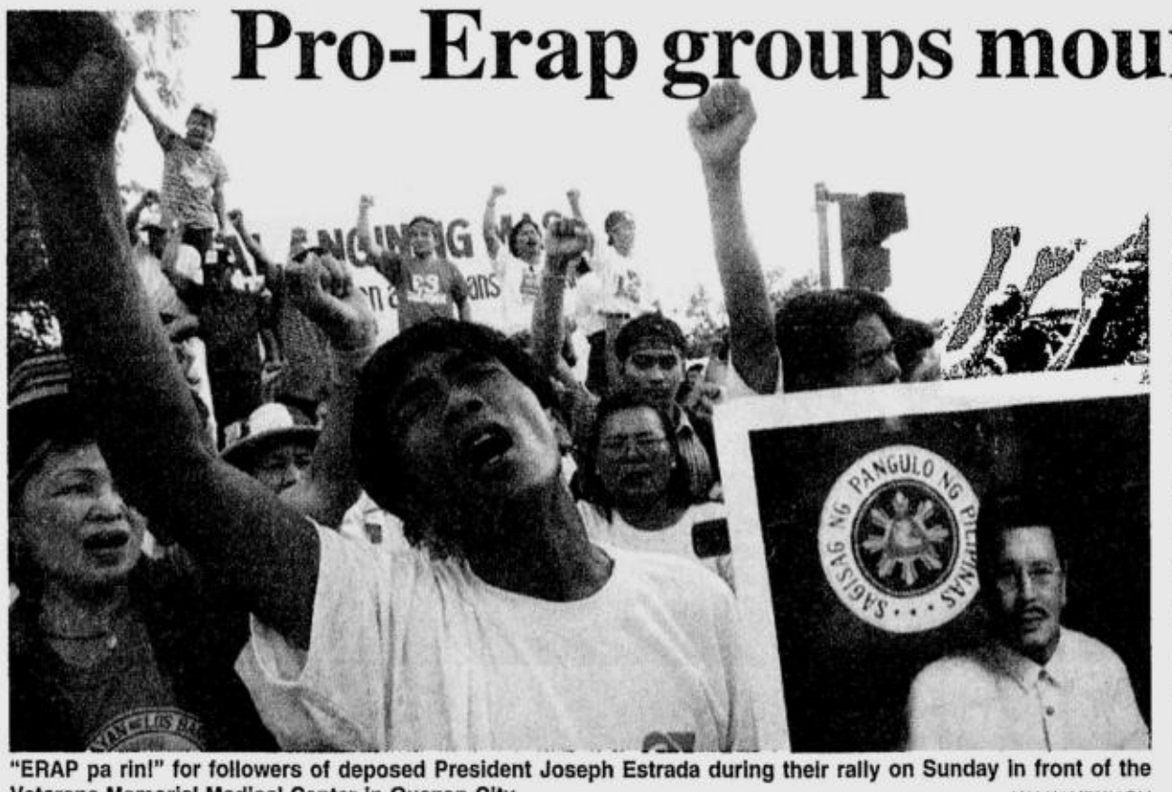
As per the paper's editorial policy, gifts in cash or in kind with a value of more than P4,000 are to be given to charity in the name of the giver.

The INQUIRER yesterday turned over the bulk of the money—P30,000—to the Manila-based orphanage run by the Fundacion de Damas Filipinas, which happened to be among the former President's favorite charities.

A pre-dawn fire destroyed the orphanage on Dec. 3, 1998, killing 23 wards and five staff members.

ESTRADA/ A15

Pro-Erap groups mount rally



"ERAP pa rin!" for followers of deposed President Joseph Estrada during their rally on Sunday in front of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City. VAL HANDUMON

BY VOLT CONTRERAS AND CARLITO PABLO

WITHIN earshot of their jailed idol, some 3,000 supporters of Joseph Estrada held an afternoon demonstration near the main gate of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where the deposed President and his son Jinggoy have been detained since last May.

Occupying the outer lane of North Avenue heading toward the Quezon Memorial Circle, pro-Estrada groups led by the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) started with a 4 p.m. Mass, followed by a candle-lighting ceremony.

PMAP spokesperson Arnold Obina said the demonstrators planned to disperse at 7 p.m. last night and resume their protest activities this afternoon in Manila.

He said two contingents would

PRO-ERAP/ A14

Crony capitalism hounds Asian economies

CRONY capitalism was a key cause of the economic malaise that resulted from Southeast Asia's worst financial crisis four years ago.

And yet it still flourishes in the region today, according to analysts who attended a recent Manila conference on crony capitalism.

Among the cases cited at the conference were recent scandals involving the husbands of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri—two women leaders who stormed to power last year.

Under crony capitalism, politicians in power offer business contracts and other favors to their relatives or friends. It breeds corruption, nepotism and political patronage, among other evils.

Several Southeast Asian leaders, including longtime Indonesian dictator Suharto, were toppled following the Asian financial crisis in 1997-98 when many companies collapsed due to inefficiencies caused by crony capitalism.

But analysts at the regional forum on crony capitalism lamented that reforms in business and politics that seemed imminent in the region following the economic turmoil had fizzled out.

"In spite of the political upheavals following the financial crisis, there have been little fundamental structural changes in politics and in business, particularly involving the

CRONY/ A15

Second FRONT PAGE

US starts military buildup in South

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

US MILITARY aircraft yesterday delivered troops, vehicles and other equipment to Zamboanga City, apparently the next step in the American-led campaign against global terrorism.

An Agence France Presse report quoting Philippine military spokespersons said three C-130 aircraft from a US base in Okinawa, Japan, landed at an air force base in Zamboanga with supplies for at least 650 US soldiers who would be taking part in a six-month joint "training exercise" with Filipino troops.

The cargo included military vehicles, a forklift, an earthmover, and a small number of American soldiers, reporters on the scene saw.

The two governments have said the American troops would only advise their Filipino counterparts in the campaign to crush the Abu Sayyaf guerrilla group, which has been linked to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, the main suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Both Manila and Washington said the US help was within the framework of the global campaign against terrorism.

The Abu Sayyaf currently holds two Americans and a Filipino hostage on the nearby island of Basilan.

In Luzon, militant Filipino groups opposed to the deployment of American troops in the country said the 400 or so US Special Forces who have been arriving at Clark airbase in Pampanga and Subic base in Zambales since Jan. 11 would most likely be the same soldiers who will participate in scheduled war exercises in Basilan and Zamboanga next month.

This likelihood was sounded as sources at the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFAcomm) said that the large-scale joint US-RP military exercise "Kalayaan Aguila 2002" in Mindanao was not on the list of VFA exercises this year.

Without a basis to justify the sending of 660 American troops to Mindanao for the VFA-related training and to assist in the pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf, one of the sources said Balance Piston 02-1 "might have been used to bring in the forces." Balance Piston 02-1 covers the training of the US soldiers now in Luzon.

A source confirmed that Balance Piston, scheduled from Jan. 18 to Feb. 15 in Luzon, was on the DFA list of VFA-related exercises.

The militant groups said suspicion is growing the US troops in Clark and Subic are "pre-positioning themselves for Mindanao."

Having 400 soldiers for Balance Piston is an "overkill," according to Millet Morante, secretary general of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya.

Citing published statements of the VFAcomm since 1999 when the war games began, Morante noted that Balance Piston activities used to be small-scale exercises involving only between 50 and 150 troops.

She observed that the Balikatan exercise scheduled next month in Mindanao also departed from the usual April or May schedule.

"There really are clear and strong indications that the US has expanded its military presence to make an entire warfront out of the Philippines, one that was allowed without any resistance by President Macapagal-Arroyo," Morante said.

Maj. Kevin Colyer, US joint mission commander, last week confirmed having some 400 troops in his contingent. He also confirmed having US Army, Air Force and Navy personnel, indicating an unusual composition that departed from regular Balance Piston contingents the last two years.

Balance Piston is an "army-to-army special forces" exercise, published statements from the VFAcomm said.

Balance Piston under Colyer was expanded to include 16 US Navy Seals at Subic and 50 US Marines at Ternate, Cavite, according to Elmer Cato, former acting executive director of VFAcomm.

Prof. Roland Simbulan of the University of the Philippines, who is also chair of the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition, said he suspects the US troops already in Luzon are "reserves and backup for the US Mindanao operation."

Despite statements by Colyer that his troops will not proceed to Mindanao after Balance Piston ends on Feb. 15, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo aired the suspicion the "two exercises (Kalayaan Aguila 2002 and Balance Piston) are one."

Two MH-47 fighter and transport helicopters due for Mindanao were expected to land in Clark on Sunday, it was learned. *With an AFP report*

US setting up 'tripwire to new Vietnam'

BY DISPATCHING troops to the Philippines, the United States was "deliberately setting up a tripwire to a new Vietnam," Luis Jalandoni, the head of the National Democratic Front panel negotiating a peace agreement with the government, said yesterday.

"The lame excuse is a joint military operation, dubbed Balikatan exercise, against the Abu Sayyaf group," said Jalandoni in a statement from his Netherlands exile.

The Pentagon is sending at least 650 Special Forces troops and support personnel to Mindanao over the next six months to advise Philippine troops in a campaign to crush the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

Both the US and Philippine governments say the US help was well within the framework of the global campaign against terrorism as the Abu Sayyaf allegedly had links with the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

Jalandoni said the presence of the US troops was a violation of Philippine sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Philippines.

Leftwing groups have charged that the US advisers would eventually turn their help into a campaign against the communist New People's Army that has been included in an international "terrorist blacklist" circulated by Washington.

"Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes let the cat out of the bag by announcing that after the Abu Sayyaf, the New People's Army would be the next target," Jalandoni said.

He urged the American public, "just as during the Vietnam War," to "stand up and defy this US imperialist intervention against the Filipino people."

He recalled that US intervention in Vietnam started with the sending of advisers and trainors, followed by combat troops.

"In the Philippines all these are coming in one go... the Abu Sayyaf group, their own creation in collaboration with their assets in the Philippine military, is their convenient excuse to intervene militarily again in the Philippines," he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and AFP*

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Marines didn't fire guns

BY M. MARFIL

THE NINE Marines who died in the Jolo public market on Jan. 15 at the hands of Moro police integrees did not fire their guns and were apparently shot at close range, a belated military report said yesterday.

The report said the Marines were surrounded and the policemen and civilians who were killed along with them died when the former rebels opened fire.

According to the report from the office of Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua, Task Force Comet chief, this conclusion was reached by investigators based on the bullet holes on the victims' Kennedy-type jeep and their positions after the carnage.

"The victims' jeep was riddled with bullets from different caliber firearms like a .50-mm, a 7.62-mm and a 5.56-mm," the report, made available to reporters yesterday, said.

"The vehicle's damage indicated that its passengers were surrounded and were shot at close range. Further, the positions of the Marine personnel indicate they were not able to return fire," the report said.

The report did not elaborate or give additional details.

But it blamed the police integrees for the deaths of the other casualties, saying the former rebels fired indiscriminately.

"Apparently, the casualties incurred by the PNP and civilians caught in the crossfire could have been the result of indiscriminate firing by the perpetrators," the report said.

The Army report was contained in a radio message sent to headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

It came a day after the high-level team investigating the incident, headed by a National Bureau of Investigation official, was supposed to come out with its findings.

On Thursday, the team was given 48 hours to investigate the two incidents that resulted in the deaths of nine Marines, three Scout Rangers, an Army integree, two policemen from the Sulu Mobile Group and six civilians.

Another 20 persons, 14 of them civilians, were wounded, according to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The Task Force Comet report was similar to an earlier report of the Department of National Defense.

In that report, a civilian bystander who saw the first Jolo incident was quoted as saying that two armored fighting vehicles of the Sulu PNP and members of the Sulu police fired their weapons indiscriminately.

"A civilian bystander reported that aside from the casualties incurred by the Marines, there were police, army integree and civilian victims when the two Sulu PNP armored vehicles and the security detail at the rally site fired their weapons indiscriminately," the DND report said.

Initial reports said the first incident was sparked by the arrest of two Marine intelligence operatives who were mauled by pro-Nur Misuari ralliers near the Jolo police station.

When other Marines heard of the mauling, 11 of them jumped on a jeep and headed to the scene.

Approaching the area, the Marines were fired upon by members of the Jolo police, Sulu Mobile Group and Army integrees.

Nine Marines died while two were wounded.

The next day, three Scout Rangers buying provisions at the Jolo market were hacked to death by suspected members of the Sulu Mobile Group. They did not stand a chance when civilians at the market joined the integrees in pummeling the victims.

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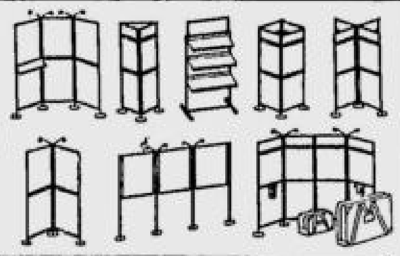
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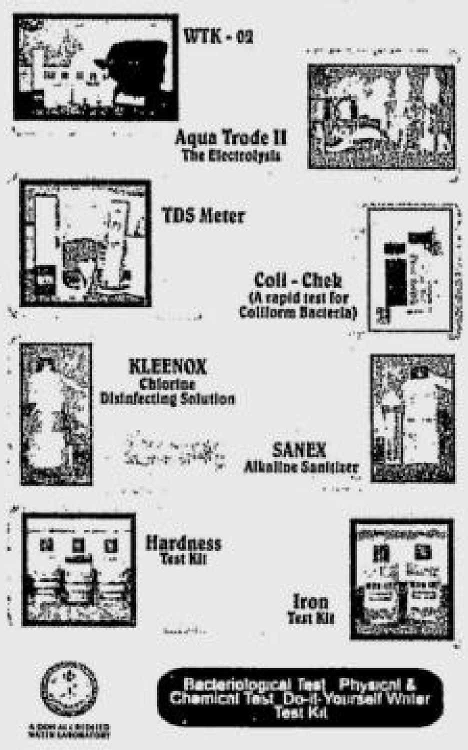

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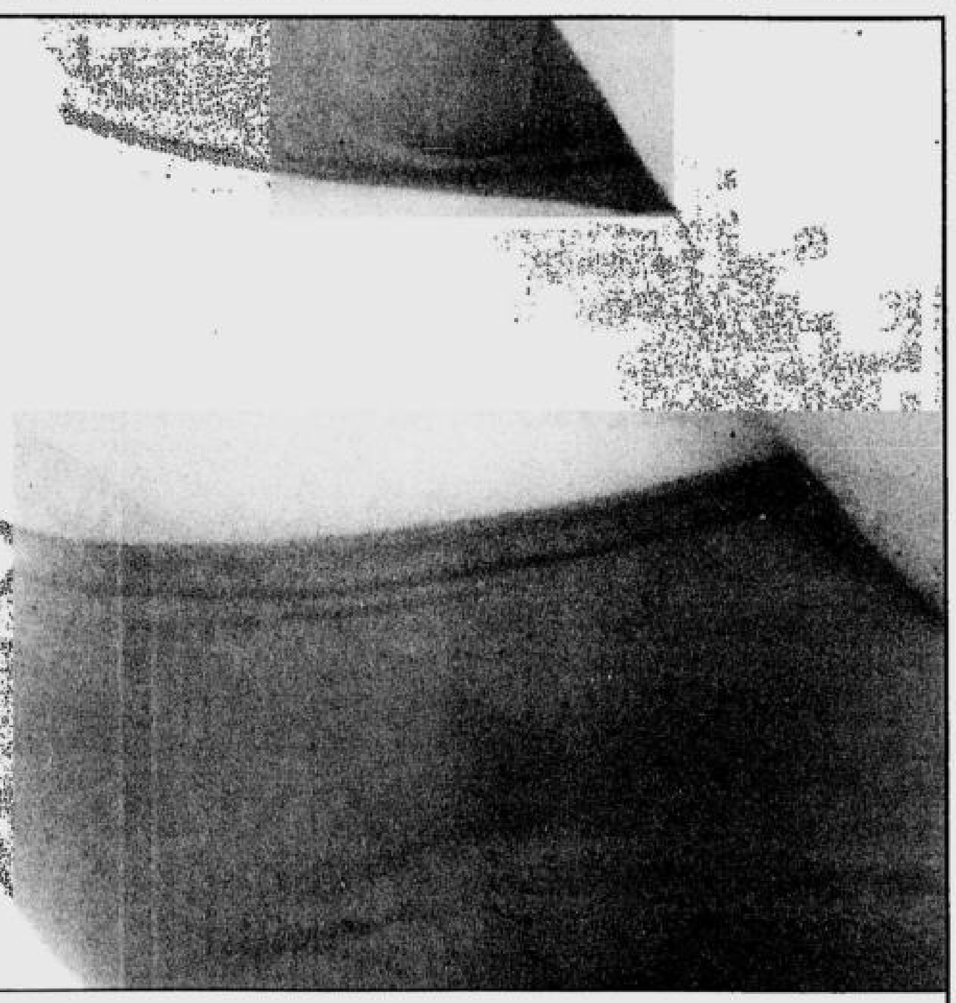
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'Serve poor, shun media'

(From page A1)

administration which the President spelled out in her first State of the Nation address.

But most of all, they need friendship and time because "love for the poor must have a human face and a human touch," he said.

"Your face and your hands must be the face and touch of the programs for the poor," the Cardinal said.

He pointed out that those who seek to serve the poor must follow the example of Christ who did it in his lifetime without fanfare.

"Away from the flashing lights of photographers, let us serve as Christ has told us to do," Sin said.

No rally

Instead of a grand rally at the Edsa Shrine, the President acted on Sin's earlier suggestion and simply attended Mass there and visited several urban poor communities.

In sharp contrast to previous celebrations of Edsa I, the uprising that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos, when similar Masses turned into rowdy political rallies involving thousands of people, yesterday's Mass was purely a religious occasion devoid of political speeches.

The President herself did not make an official statement.

"I am very glad the President accommodated my request that instead of holding a rally at Edsa, she will just attend a small celebration of the Eucharist as an act of thanksgiving," Sin said.

Unlike in his previous Masses at Edsa, the country's most influential Church leader, who played a key role in the ousting of both Estrada and Marcos, also avoided any political commentary.

The new tack was apparently aimed at defusing political passions in the country and promoting reconciliation.

Before leaving for her first stop, the Muslim community in Culiat, Quezon City, Ms Macapagal said: "I challenge the rich to come with us (to) the different celebrations (of Edsa II)."

In Culiat, the President distributed plastic pails packed with food and school bags for the children.

She also told residents that their mosque would be repaired and a drainage canal would be constructed.

After distributing the school bags, Ms Macapagal sat down to eat with bare hands. Their fare: rice, tomatoes and boiled egg, chicken-pork *adobo* and banana for desert.

She proceeded to the poor communities in Kristong Hari and Barangay Freedom Park 5, on the side of the Batasang Pambansa complex, also in Quezon City.

Ms Macapagal and her officials promised the poor jobs, a more aggressive anti-drug abuse campaign, and the prospect of land ownership.

She stopped briefly at her house in La Vista Subdivision in Quezon City before motoring to Lupang Pangako A.

From there, she went to the Smokey Mountain Development Complex, which, like Payatas, is a known bailiwick of Estrada's.

This was followed by visits to a poor community at the National Power Corp. compound in Muntinlupa City and two other communities in Mandaluyong City.

More shrines

In his homily, Cardinal Sin explained the reason behind the low-key celebration of Edsa II.

"It is time for the Edsa spirit to be celebrated in our little communities and build, in a manner of speaking, more Edsa shrines in the hearts of the poor," he said.

"The Edsa Shrine is a house of prayer. It must be a place of solace and comfort, peace and grace. Let us keep this place that way."

The archdiocese has banned the holding of political rallies at the shrine since last week to ensure that the church, which has been declared holy ground by the Vatican, would not be "desecrated" by partisan politics.

Ms Macapagal, who attended the Mass with her husband and three children and Cabinet secretaries, has herself been accused of making the rounds in a bid to boost her presidential bid in 2004.

The President has been photographed eating with her hands with a poor family in Payatas, something that her ousted predecessor had been known for.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), a member of the Edsa II coalition last year, said Sin's sermon served the President right.

"Ms Macapagal should learn a thing or two from the good cardinal," Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes Jr. said in a statement shortly before members of his group and other protesters marched to Mendiola yesterday.

Reyes said the President should not delude herself into thinking that her "photo opportunities" would move the public spotlight away from corruption and poverty.

In his homily, Sin also urged the nation to teach the youth, many of whom were present at the rallies that deposed President Estrada, about the heroism of Mrs. Aquino's late husband, Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.

Sin said Aquino's memory had been enshrined in a museum in Tarlac, where the children and youth must go "to learn the lessons of one great Filipino whose blood (on) the tarmac set the whole nation on fire with love."

God's gift

In her sorties to the urban poor communities, Ms Macapagal delivered a uniform message: "People Power came from the Lord."

"God wants this power to go and serve the people," she said.

"I thank the Lord that we made it through our first year despite the harsh times in the world and in politics," the President said.

She also told reporters that "hard-core" Estrada supporters cannot hope for his return through another "People Power" uprising.

"People Power cannot succeed without the blessings of God," she said.

Regarding Estrada's supporters, most of whom are poor, the President said: "We have already talked to a great number of them and I'm thankful that over this past year, they gave us a chance to show that this government is more pro-poor."

Speaking after the Mass at the Edsa Shrine, the President said she agreed completely with Cardinal Sin.

"Our policies should be directed at the poor, not merely as charity," Ms Macapagal said. "We should spend time with them and listen to them."

"I will dedicate the second year of my term to the workers," she told reporters. "They will serve as our inspiration."

"I will heed the advice of Cardinal Sin," she said. "It would be better if my meetings with the poor are not disturbed by photographers and the media."

"After today, when I visit the urban poor, I will do so without media coverage," she added.

Ms Macapagal on Sunday received an endorsement from former President Aquino.

"I am a fan of President Arroyo. We have many problems but she is doing her best to address them," Aquino told reporters after the church service.

"She has many critics, but she's certainly doing her best," she said.

With reports from AFP and Reuters

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FVR says Kansas senator 'did not do his homework'

FORMER President Fidel Ramos yesterday chided a United States senator for saying that the Philippines could be the next Afghanistan, saying the Kansas senator "did not do his homework."

He invited Sen. Sam Brownback to come to the Philippines to see for himself the true condition of the country.

"The Philippines is not like Afghanistan and Basilan is not the Philippines," Ramos said.

"I know that he (Brownback) comes from the state of Kansas which is the home state of the Burnham couple (hostaged by the Abu Sayyaf) and therefore he is very concerned about them," Ramos told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before departing for Oman yesterday.

Coming from an "interior state" of the United States, Brownback might "not be aware of what the Philippines really is," Ramos said.

Brownback said last week said that the Philippines appeared to be the "next target, after Afghanistan, of the war on terrorism" of the US-led war on international terrorism.

Ramos also chided former Sen. Francisco Tatad for calling for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation on the ground that she had disregarded Philippine sovereignty in allowing US forces to enter the country.

"His basis for saying that is far-fetched because this is based on the Visiting Forces Agreement, and what's going on is a training exercise," Ramos said.

He denied that the US deployment had anything to do with the rescue of the Burnhams.

"It is clearly, as announced from both Washington, D.C. and here, a training exercise to ensure the interoperability of units, personnel and equipment. Both sides benefit from this training exercise because it is bilateral, reciprocal and mutual," Ramos said.

"They are not involved in any rescue (attempt) or anti-kidnap operations," he said. *Donna S. Cueto*

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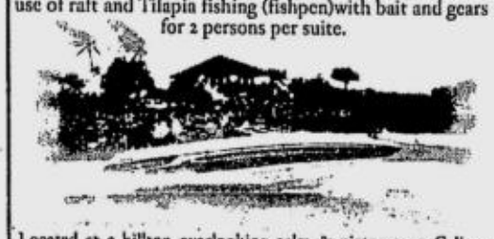
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US troops' return stirs up bitter-sweet memories

FOR MANY Filipinos, joint operations with American soldiers against Muslim insurgents conjure up images of World War II, when the two nations united to fight the Japanese. For others, the notion that Americans might shoot at Filipinos recalls a century-old period of US colonialism they equate with subjugation and massacres.

The historical baggage explains why the planned presence of 660 US troops next month—some possibly in combat zones—is raising some tempers.

"It's a love-hate history," said Amado Mendoza, a political science professor at the University of the Philippines. "The history can be used as propaganda for or against the United States, and many groups right now can use the bad parts."

The Constitution bars foreign troops from fighting on Philippine soil, but the upcoming exercise will allow some US soldiers in combat zones as observers. They will carry weapons for self-defense.

After 48 years of US rule and continuing strong cultural influence, Filipinos are about as familiar with hamburgers as they are local cuisine. The elite soldiers are called Marines, the main form of public transport is a jeepney based on the US Army jeep, and hundreds of thousands of Filipinos have relatives in the United States and many more would like to there. Even in remote mountain villages, young tribesmen swagger in the jerky movements of US rap culture as they sing their MTV favorites.

But the possibility of US troops in combat raises the specter of the Philippine-American war in which tens or hundreds of thousands of Filipino fighters and civilians died fighting US colonial rule.

Although most Filipinos have a vague knowledge of colonial history, the concern is strongest among leftists, nationalists and the Muslim minority in the south of the mainly Roman Catholic nation. But it extends to mainstream opposition and even government-allied politicians.

After the Spanish-American war, the Treaty of Paris granted the United States possession of the Philippines in 1898, ending 377 years of Spanish rule.

The Filipinos were angered the Americans wouldn't grant independence. Armed only with machetes, they launched a failed three-year rebellion in 1899 that also claimed the lives of 5,000 US soldiers, mostly from diseases such as malaria.

In the United States, the most famous day of the era was the battle of Balangiga in 1901 when hundreds of Filipinos, many disguised as women and carrying hidden machetes in coffins, surprised and killed 46 mostly unarmed US soldiers.

Subsequent reports of US torture and massacres are remembered in the Philippines, particularly in orders attributed to US Gen. Jacob Smith: "I want no prisoners. I wish you to kill and burn. The more you kill and burn the better it will please me... Kill everyone over the age of 10."

At roughly the same time and for more than a decade afterward, US forces fought a bloody war with the Muslims of the South.

Asiri Abubakar, a professor in Islamic Studies at the University of the Philippines, said 15,000 Muslims died in 1905-15 and the memory remains strong in the South, the Abu Sayyaf's base.

In the early 1900s, growing opposition at home to US actions in the Philippines attracted writer Mark Twain as a spokesman.

For 10 years until his death in 1910, Twain was vice president of the Anti-Imperialist League and argued against US colonialism and for Philippine freedom.

The Philippines gained independence in 1946, and granted the United States control of about 20 military installations. *AP*

UP Beta Sigma set alumni induction

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association Inc. (UPBSFAAI) will hold its annual induction of officers on Feb. 2, at the Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Leading the honorees is lawyer Romulo Lumauig, who was reelected chair of the board and president of the association. His reelection comes in the heels of a successful term in year 2001 which saw the passage of new charter for UPBSFAAI and the launching of the UP Beta Sigma Endowment Fund.

Fraternity brothers are enjoined to attend and bring P1,000 as payment for annual dues and dinner expenses for the affair. For more details, the brothers may contact the alumni secretariat located at No. 7 Maginhawa St., UP Village, Quezon City, at tel. nos. 436-4696 and 921-9325, or e-mail address betasigma@edsamail.com.ph.

Binhi Awards now accepting entries

THE PHILIPPINE Agricultural Journalists Inc. (PAJ) is now accepting entries to the Binhi Awards, a journalism contest honoring the best media reports on agriculture, environment and agrarian reform.

PAJ president Roman Floresca, agribusiness editor of The Philippine Star, said in a statement that more than P500,000 in cash prizes and trophies await this year's winners.

The 2001-2002 Binhi Awards covers the following categories: agricultural journalist of the year (one each for English and Filipino), agri-beat reporter, radio program, magazine, newsletter, information or media campaign, and photojournalist of the year.

It is open to all members of national and local publications, government and private agencies, industry associations, NGOs, foundations and cooperatives.

Participants are required to submit copies of their published articles, photos, magazines, newsletters, radio programs aired or info/media campaign launched during the contest period—from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002. Entries should be submitted on or before July 31, 2002 to the PAJ Binhi Awards Committee.

For inquiries on the Binhi Awards, call 920-4080 or 928-8741 local 134 c/o Department of Agriculture's Agriculture and Fisheries Information Service.

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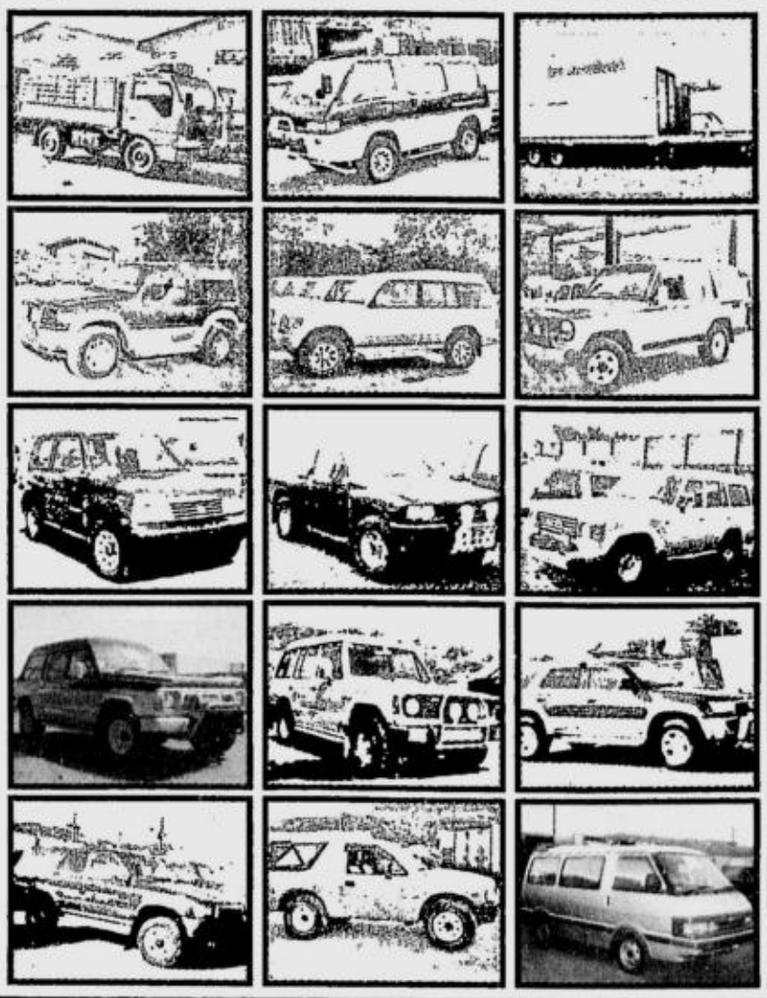
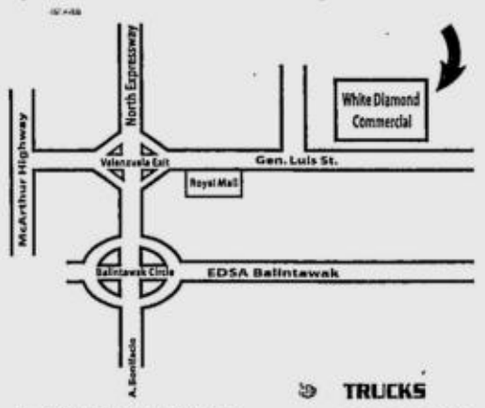
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GMA: Ibon a 'communist front'

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday branded as a "communist front" a research center whose latest survey showed her administration's public approval ratings dropping to negative levels.

"It's not a secret that the Ibon (Foundation) is one of the legal organizations of the Communist Party of the Philippines," the President told reporters in Filipino.

The foundation's Databank and Research Center reported last Saturday that a survey which it had conducted in November and December showed the Macapagal administration's satisfaction rating registering at negative 8.27 percent.

The President was interviewed after Mass at the Edsa Shrine to commemorate the first anniversary of the second Edsa people power uprising that put her in power.

Ms Macapagal said that Ibon's association with the CPP was the reason why their survey findings were always different from those of other polling agencies.

"Of course they have an advocacy which they are promoting," she said of Ibon, which started out as an economic research organization during the Marcos dictatorship.

As an example, she cited one of the Ibon survey results which stated that Filipinos were not in favor of direct United States military participation in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

The President said surveys done by other polling organizations tended to show otherwise.

She also said that Ibon has never given her "a good mark" because of its anti-government orientation.

"As long as Ibon is the one doing the survey, my rating will always be low," she said.

In the same survey, Ibon said that 51.01 percent of survey respondents believed that the economy had worsened last year.

Last week, Ibon also reported that economic growth during the last year in office of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada was higher compared to the first year of Ms Macapagal's watch.

For the militant workers in the Calabarzon area of Southern Tagalog, the government's negative performance rating was a "correct judgment" of Ms Macapagal's own performance.

"Presidential spokesperson (Rigoberto) Tiglao will surely make an alibi that it is simply a question of communication but it is a problem of performance in reality," said Ferdie Perez, chair of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino-Southern Tagalog.

Perez said Ms Macapagal was "an enemy of the workers" because she had not done anything to solve the problems of the Filipino working class.

"We will not retract such a judgment until she shows signs of heeding the demands of workers for a labor-first policy," he said.

Workers at Calabarzon industrial centers would hold noise barrages when they leave their workplaces today to culminate one week of protests, Perez said. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Joma sees Gloria ouster 'in one year'

GMA: 'That's not going to happen'

EXILED communist leader Jose Ma. Sison has warned that with the United States military deployments, President Macapagal-Arroyo's "relatively peaceful removal from power is probable within one year."

The President rejected the observation, however, telling reporters yesterday that Sison's scenario was "not going to happen."

The government has insisted the US deployment was covered by the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty with Washington.

Administration officials say the majority of Filipinos back the US presence to help the President crush the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

"At the rate that Gloria Macapagal has offended the broad masses of the people, she will face an increasingly determined and vigorous broad-based opposition in the second year of her administration," Sison said from his exile in the Netherlands.

Sison is the founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines and serves as a consultant to the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the CPP.

His statement was released yesterday as militant groups led by the left-leaning Bagong Alyansang Makabayan commemorated the march to Mendiola a year ago during the second Edsa people power uprising which forced jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada to step down.

Sison, who joined the call for Estrada's ouster last year, advanced several scenarios that he said could lead to the "relatively peaceful removal of Macapagal from power within one year or so."

This could happen if the broad coalition that brought down Estrada and the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos were to again protest in the streets; if the military and the police continue to respect the people's right to assemble and protest; and if the Vice President (Teofisto Guingona) is willing to succeed the "discredited President and preempt any military clique or military civilian-junta from taking power."

Sison said there should also be an intensified campaign in the countryside by armed revolutionary groups, including the Moro rebels, to "serve notice to the regime that it cannot suppress the legal democratic forces in the urban areas with impunity."

He said that among the "serious issues" undermining the Macapagal administration were the worsening socioeconomic crisis, continued government corruption and the "brutal military and police campaigns to suppress the rising mass movement in the cities and countryside."

He also cited the "escalating US military intervention" in the country as another issue that could precipitate Ms Macapagal's ouster.

Bayan said the entry of US troops may be the "last straw" that could lead to the President's downfall.

"If GMA (Ms Macapagal) insists on being Washington's little drummer girl in Asia, she better watch out. We will fight her all the way on this," said Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño. ***Reports from Philip Tubeza, Delfin Mallari Jr. and AFP***

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a decision in **DARAB Case No. 5461** (Reg. Case No. IV-QuII-121-95) entitled **SPS. JOSE AVETRIA and PAULA AVETRIA versus HEIRS of ARTEMIO BATRALO represented by REYNALDO BATRALO** was promulgated by the DAR Adjudication Board, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City on March 23, 2000.

Counsels and parties to this case particularly **Reynaldo Batralo** whose last known address was in **Brgy. Mayubok, Pitogo, Quezon** are hereby advised to get a copy of the said decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of the posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision to this case shall become final and executory.

January 9, 2002. Diliman, Quezon City.

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

Inquirer-Jan. 14&21,2002

Amang's 119th birth anniversary

TODAY marks the 119th birth anniversary of the late Senate president Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez. Commemorative rites will be held at the Rodriguez, Rizal town plaza.

Sponsored by the Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Memorial Foundation, this year's celebration will also be marked by a medical mission and gift-giving to the residents of Rodriguez by Rep. Isidro Rodriguez Jr. and members of the foundation's board.

Amang Rodriguez was the longest serving Senate president, occupying the post for 12 years.

He was also known as a no-nonsense public official who published a "white paper" exposing the corrupt officials of the time.

He gave scholarships to thousands of young men and women and donated the lot on Magsaysay Boulevard, Manila, where the Eulogio Rodriguez Technical College now stands.

A mass and wreath-laying at his tomb and life-sized monument at the Rodriguez town plaza will open the observance.

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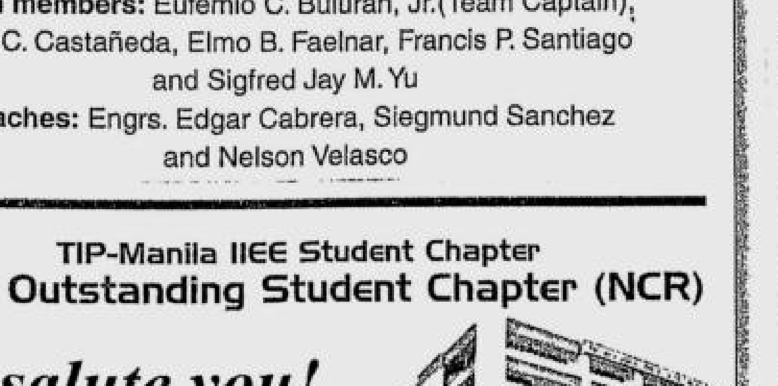

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US fears Asians may pull next terror attack

SINGAPORE—As the US-led war on global terrorism moves beyond Afghanistan, increasing attention is being focused on Southeast Asia as a fertile breeding ground for Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Recent arrests in Singapore and Malaysia, the US military deployment to the southern Philippines and concern over radical Muslim activity in Indonesia have highlighted the region's prominent place in the anti-terror campaign.

The Washington Post reported Friday that US intelligence agencies fear the next terrorist attack in the United States could come not from an Arab commando but from an Asian, or even African, who would more easily elude suspicion.

It quoted US officials as saying the Federal Bureau of Investigation had sent more agents to Asia and American customs officers were instructed to pay more attention to incoming travelers from the area.

Jane's Intelligence Review said the al-Qaida network, accused of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States, remained virtually intact in Asia despite its decimation in other parts of the world.

"Al-Qaida's network in the United States, Europe, and East Africa has been disrupted significantly as a result of investigations and widespread arrests," according to the respected authority on defense and security issues.

"In Asia, however, a network of cells and support structures remains virtually intact, both before and after Sept. 11," it said in an article reprinted Jan. 4 in the Singapore Straits Times.

The threat to the region's non-Muslim countries such as Australia, South Korea and Japan was "considerable," Jane's said. It added that countries with substantial Muslim populations such as Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines were also vulnerable.

With al-Qaida under pressure in North America, Europe, East Africa and the Middle East, Asia "is likely to become its last bastion," the article said.

Events have lent credence to the Jane's assessment.

The United States already looks ready to open the next significant front in its anti-terror drive in the southern Philippines, where government troops are battling the Islamic guerrilla group Abu Sayyaf.

Some 250 American soldiers are already in the country, US officials said. More, including special forces, are on the way to help the Filipinos tackle the notorious kidnap-for ransom group with suspected al-Qaida links.

Singapore authorities were holding 13 people who were arrested last month for allegedly having links to al-Qaida and plotting to attack the US Embassy and other targets in the normally tranquil city-state.

Malaysian officials said Saturday they had detained another seven people believed to be members of a local mujahedin group accused of waging a "holy war" after undergoing military training in Afghanistan.

The arrests came less than a month after the detention of 15 alleged militants with suspected links to Zacarias Moussaoui, a Frenchman on trial in the United States for his alleged role in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Indonesia has found itself on a short-list of potential targets for possible US military action to eradicate terrorist sanctuaries, although Jakarta firmly insists al-Qaida are nowhere to be found in the country. *AFP*

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Opposition holds caucus tonight

BY C. AVENDAÑO

THE POLITICAL opposition is set to meet tonight to discuss recent developments, including the arrival of US troops in the country and an invitation to join a national political summit being organized by the administration.

House minority leader Carlos Padilla told the INQUIRER tonight's caucus with their opposition colleagues in the Senate "would discuss many recent issues and events and probably come up with a common stand."

Padilla, the representative from Nueva Vizcaya, said in a phone interview that aside from the thorny issue of the deployment of American troops in the country, the minority needs to discuss the invitation of Speaker Jose de Venecia to join a national political summit that is being planned.

Padilla said De Venecia met with him and fellow minority congressman Tet Garcia recently to invite them to join the political summit.

It wasn't still clear what the objectives of the political summit would be, Padilla said.

"The Speaker reminded us that pro-administration legislators had responded positively to the national economic summit that was initiated last month by opposition Sen. Blas Ople and now it was our (opposition's) turn (to reciprocate with their proposal for a political summit)," Padilla said.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, who was present at the meeting among De Venecia, Padilla and Garcia, said he was for the holding of a national political summit only if this would be "subordinate to and supportive of" the national economic agenda.

That is, he said, the summit should "provide teeth and focus to our economic agenda and make it doable."

On the arrival of US troops purportedly for training exercises and to advise their Filipino counterparts on their operations against the Abu Sayyaf terrorist gang, opposition politicians had doubted official explanations, saying they believe the US troops would eventually directly engage the Abu Sayyaf in battle.

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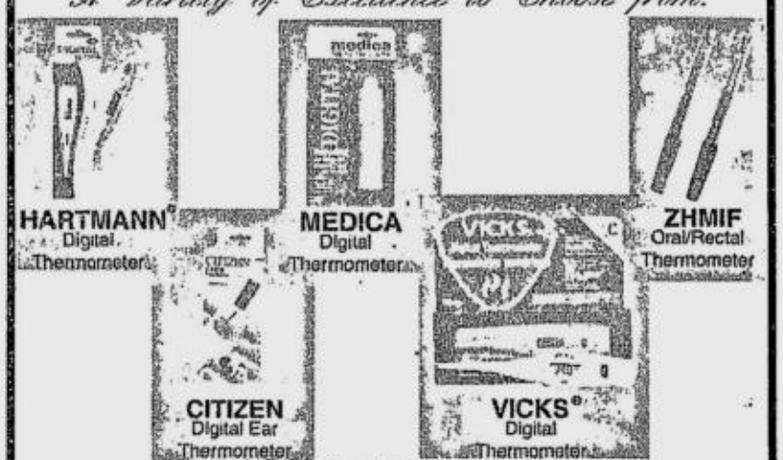
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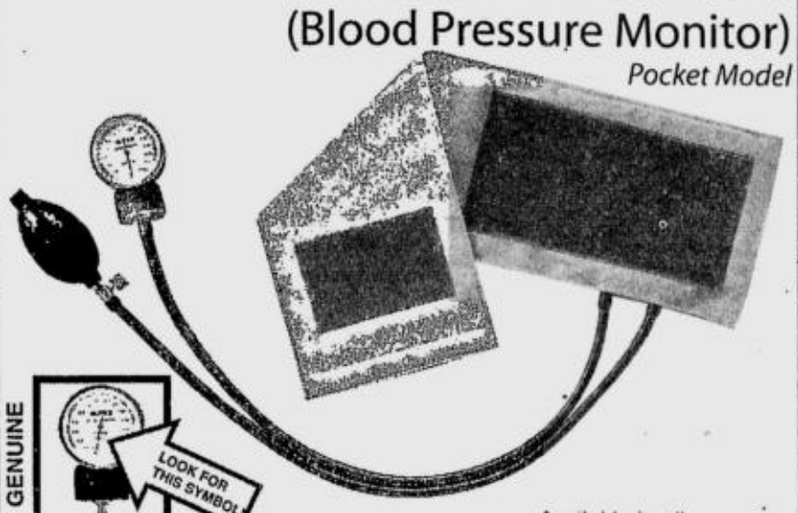
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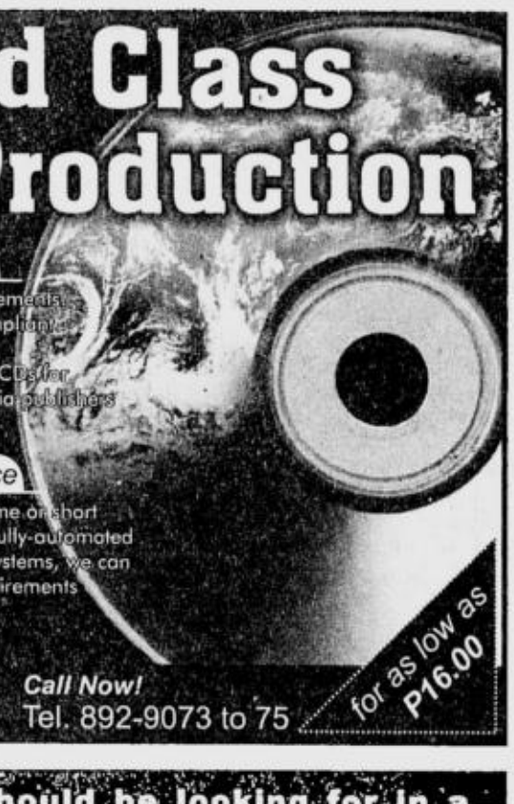
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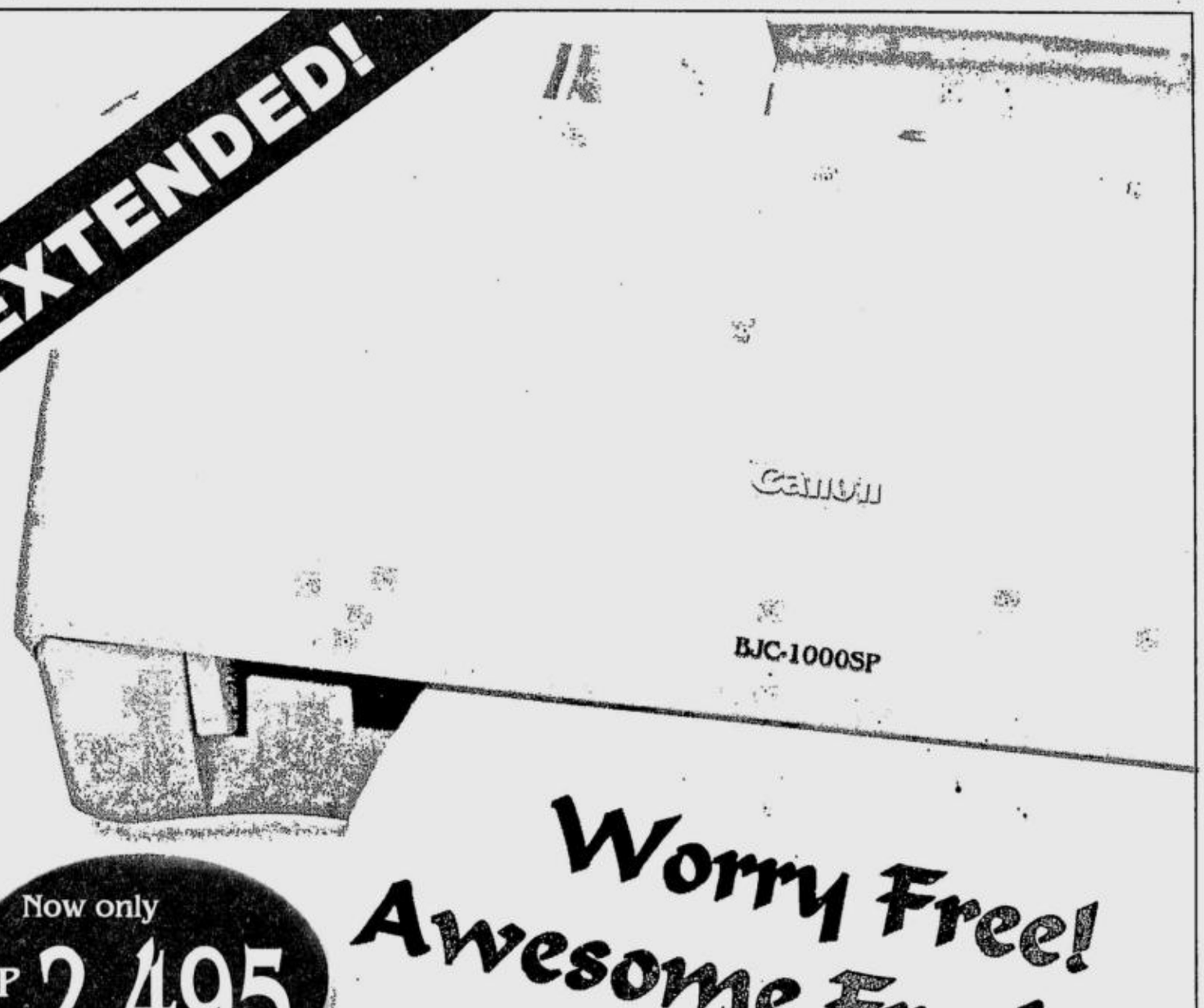
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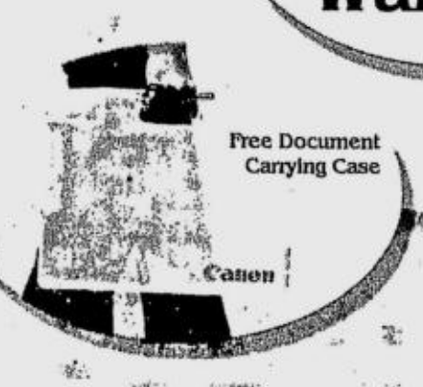
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OPINION

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Cold nights

WE do not mean to be facetious, but coup plotters and Edsa IV daydreamers need to take weather conditions into account before issuing yet another press release and staging yet another scripted, paid-for rally.

It may be no exaggeration to say that the cold, pleasant weather during both Edsa I and II had a great deal to do with their success. To use the language of management consultants, the weather was a "critical success factor."

EDITORIALS

Let's take last year's political upheaval, for example. The Edsa II forces first trooped to the Shrine on Jan. 16. The mean temperature for that day was a mild 26.6° Celsius. The maximum temperature was a bearable 29.6°. Indeed, during the four nights and five days between the infamous 11-10 vote in the Senate and the resignation of Joseph Estrada, the average temperature in Metro Manila was in the pleasant 26-to-27° range.

Now contrast these numbers with the temperatures of the week that led to the May 1, 2001 assault on Malacañang. The maximum temperature for April 30, the day of the last rally, was a scorching 35°; the average temperature was an enervating 30.2°.

These figures help explain the size and nature of the crowds and, the issue of paid rallyists aside, may even help explain why Edsa II succeeded and "Edsa III" failed. For the benefit of those who refuse to see Edsa II for the wonderful accident that it is, let us belabor the point.

The weather was but one factor in the confluence of events that swirled about the country a year ago, as it was a factor in February 1986. We do not mean to underestimate the forbearance of the gallant Edsa II forces, who would have endured even roiling temperatures; at the same time, we do not want to leave anything in our analysis unaccounted for. That the days were pleasant and the nights were cool certainly drew more people to the Shrine; it helped create the festive, patient, prayerful atmosphere that was such a distinguishing mark of the historic event. But—and this is the point—the last time we looked, the weather remains beyond the reach of human or even political control.

Many of the events that led to Edsa II were planned, deliberated upon, followed through on; but many more—such as the weather, or the fact that the leaders of the Couples for Christ movement, numbering in the hundreds, just happened to be wrapping up their monthly meeting a few kilometers behind the Shrine at the moment of the Senate vote, and thus reached the protest site literally within minutes of the first call—were pure happenstance.

We celebrate this fact, because it reminds us yet again that true People Power is never the product of a political plan. It cannot be summoned at will.

Hot noise

THE NOISE barrage is the one-hit wonder of Philippine politics. Tacticians advising its use are often driven by a sense of nostalgia, by their memory of the first widespread protest action during the martial law years. But since the clangorous night of April 16, 1978, when a tremendous and collective banging and clanging led by imprisoned Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. shook the foundations of the Marcos administration to its roots, the noise barrage has lost its usefulness as a political tool

We wonder, however, whether the irony is not lost on the likes of former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who was martial law administrator at that time and is an oppositionist today. Enrile joined other politicians identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada in a noise barrage, a "Kalampagan ng Bayan," over the weekend. For many, reading about this protest action will come as a surprise, not because it was unexpected, but because, except for isolated areas, it went largely unheard.

The choice of political weaponry was problematic, to say the least. The barrage was successful in 1978 because people *needed* to make noise; the first five years of martial rule had imposed a culture of silence on a fearful nation. But silent the Estrada opposition has never been. Ever since Estrada's fall, his lawyers and politicians and supporters have fought for and won at least equal time in the country's media outlets. There was thus a sorry disconnect between method and need.

Even more troubling, the leaders of the protest action are morally compromised, at best. Many merely stood by as incontrovertible evidence of Estrada's corruption mounted. Some even defended the regime, or tried to frame the problem by "laying the (appropriate) predicate." By what right do they now presume to beat the drums of moral indignation?

Have your dogs and cats spayed or neutered

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IN RESPONSE to numerous queries about the dogs up for adoption last Jan. 12 at the Philippine Animal Welfare Society Rehabilitation Center, here is an update as relayed to us by PAWS. As a backgrounder to those who tuned in late, the dogs were strays caught in Marikina City and turned over to PAWS to look for people willing to adopt them. Originally, there were seven dogs chosen as having the best potentials to be good family dogs. Two more were added later on.

All nine dogs were adopted. Another 16 persons who passed the adoption requirements are on PAWS' waiting list. Their applications were approved but PAWS ran out of dogs. They would have to wait a month or two for PAWS to choose another batch of dogs for them to "meet."

The response to PAWS' call for adoptive owners is simply overwhelming, proof that many people really care for animals, they just have to be taught how to do it properly. PAWS received 50 text messages and over 40 e-mail inquiries in just three days after the story came out in the paper. By 12 noon of Jan. 12, only one dog wasn't adopted, a white one with a leg wound. She was later adopted by someone who came in at 4:30 p.m. But even after that, people were still coming in for interviews.

PAWS also got queries from 10 persons who wanted to volunteer for PAWS or coordinate with it on certain projects. Others, including one Filipino doctor based in the United States, wanted to donate funds (God bless them). But there were five others who wanted to "dump" their dogs and cats in the unfinished shelter.

Right there is why there are so many stray dogs and cats: irresponsible pet owners. Owners don't have their pets spayed or neutered ("*kinakapon*" in Filipino) so they breed litters. They are allowed to roam the streets. In due time, a male dog mates with a bitch in heat (or a tom with a queen cat) and the owner is presented with an unexpected litter of six or more puppies or kittens.

At first, it is fun to have puppies or kittens, especially if there are children in the house. But they soon grow up. Puppies are not difficult to give away; there are always takers for cute puppies. But kittens are usually thrown away in vacant lots or abandoned in parking lots or on sidewalks. These grow up to be strays living a hard life, scrounging for food in garbage cans, ravaged by disease and parasites and spreading them themselves, breeding more kittens to grow up and breed the same tortured lives. This cycle happens because one irresponsible owner penny-pinched and refused to have his cat spayed or neutered.

Some pet owners have the mistaken notion that dogs and cats suffer when they are "operated on," so they refuse to have it done to their pets "out of pity" for the animal, not knowing that they are actually doing their pet a favor by having it spayed or neutered. It is surprising that in this modern age of information, many are still ignorant of the benefits of spaying and neutering, benefits both for the animals and their owners.

The procedure is humane and would prevent the pet not only from having unwanted puppies or kittens but also from having certain diseases later on in their lives. Neutered animals are also generally less aggressive. In the United States, all pets adopted from the shelters are neutered/spayed to help curb the overpopulation of pets. Some animal welfare societies or neighborhood groups catch stray cats and have them spayed or neutered before letting them loose again. That way, they don't multiply at least. Yet millions of unclaimed and unadopted animals are still euthanized (or "put to sleep") every year because of the irresponsible few who want to breed their dogs and cats and end up giving them away or letting them loose in the streets.

That is why two applicants wanting to adopt dogs failed the PAWS interviews, mainly because they are not agreeable to having the dogs spayed or neutered. In conformity with international standards, PAWS will not adopt out dogs that are not neutered or spayed; or will not give out dogs to people who aren't willing to take them back for spaying or neutering later on.

PAWS told us happily that, from the flurry of e-mails and text messages they received and from their interviews with people who came to adopt, they have learned that "a lot of people care about animals and issues like animal cruelty and responsible pet ownership. Mayors of each city and municipality should seriously pay attention to these issues and should enforce humane policies in controlling the stray animal population. But don't do it without proper training and preparation. Similarly, a lot of people want injured or cruelly treated animals rescued but have no government agency to turn to." (Whatever happened to the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals?)

More condemnable, there is a law, the Animal Welfare Act (or AWA), that prohibits and punishes cruelty to animals, and the killing, butchering and eating of certain animals like dogs and cats, but the national or local government units hardly enforce it. In fact, it is openly and flagrantly violated in the supposedly "civilized" city of Baguio but neither the violators themselves nor the city officials who don't enforce the law, are held to account by the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Moreover, horse-fighting which is prohibited by the AWA, continues in parts of Mindanao, and the even more cruel dog-fighting, also prohibited and punished by law, goes on in the heart of Metro Manila, ironically participated in by affluent and supposedly "educated and civilized" (but actually barbaric) citizens.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina, what are you doing?

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Leader

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

RAUL Concepcion and Florencio Abad have interesting theories about how President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may win over the people to her side. Or at least, how she may prevent her detractors from growing.

"What this country needs now," says Concepcion, "is a leader, not an economic manager." Ms Macapagal "is a good manager, but she needs to be more charismatic and be able to motivate and unite people of all sectors." The President, Concepcion said, is perceived as sharp-tongued (*mataray*) and a know-it-all, traits that do not sit well with Filipinos.

Abad says pretty much the same thing. What the President needs to do, he says, is raise her "emotional quotient." "I don't think the issue is performance," he says. "She has done fairly well. She works hard and does her homework." But she also appears "cold and distant." She needs to be a little warmer and accessible, traits Filipinos value. She would do well, Abad says, to discover the virtue of "emotional leadership."

I agree entirely with Concepcion when he distinguishes between leader and manager. It is an eminently useful distinction, which holds the key to the problem. But I do not agree with the way he—and Abad—make out the distinction.

I agree that we need people who can inspire rather than sign memos in times of war and strife. Can you imagine Britain during World War II without Winston Churchill? Can you imagine someone urging the British people to fight on by ticking off armament logistics and military goals rather than by making a plea for blood, sweat and tears?

I did say last year that what Ms Macapagal needed to do during her first State of the Nation Address was to give her compatriots to share a dream, like Martin Luther King. We had just gone through two Edsas; we had just been rived into Charles Dickens' two cities, the city of the rich and the city of the poor; we were locked in a very real, and bloody, war against poverty. We needed a rousing speech, one that would melt hearts of stone. Ms Macapagal gave us instead a speech destined only for the Fookien Times Yearbook, a shopping list of goals and promises. And one topped by an astounding PR plug for Rene Bañez, the newly appointed BIR chief, who will go down in the books as the complete unknown who got patted on the back in a President's signal speech.

But if this were just a personality problem, which Concepcion and Abad's theories suggest, then it would not be too hard to solve. All the President needs to do is reinvent her image, making herself look more accessible or chummy. All the President needs to do is take lessons on how to charm the public. All she has to do is smile a lot more and fret a lot less, which, though the latter seems to require much effort from her, can be done with focus and single-mindedness.

If this were just a perception or communication problem, which Concepcion and Abad's theories suggest—both say Ms Macapagal is earnest, though unable to get it across—then it would not be too hard to solve. All the President needs to do is hire better speechwriters, those who can make heaven weep with their words. All the President needs to do is go on a PR binge, which she is doing already. Her TV show and photo ops—the one last Friday which showed her to be eating with her hands in Payatas is chief of them—are clearly part of that epic offensive.

But the problem in fact goes beyond personality and communication. I buy completely the distinction between manager and leader, and I say as well that what this country needs today is a leader and not a manager. For me, however, the distinction lies in this: A manager is someone who asks how and when, a leader is someone who asks what and why.

The president of a corporation has no problems about goals. He is there to make the most profit for his company. He may face alternative paths, but he has only one destination. The president of a country does not have the same luxury. He does not just face alternative paths, he faces alternative destinations. He does not just need to pursue a vision for the country, he needs to supply a vision for the country. The president of a corporation asks how things can be done and finds the best time to do them. The president of a country asks why things are the way they are and finds what can be done about them.

That is particularly true of a country in turmoil. That is particularly true of a country in strife. That is particularly true of a people who are lost and groping in the dark for answers. Which is what this country is, which is what we are. We are a country that, as I said earlier, has just been rocked by two Edsas, that is rived into rich and poor, that is battling a losing war against poverty. None of that can be solved simply by asking everyone to junk politics and focus on the economy. I agree that we should all junk "politicking," which in any case is what the President herself is unleashing by example. I do not agree that we should junk politics, if by that is meant asking questions about alternative futures and the means to achieve them.

"Edsa III," for all its grotesqueness, has raised the overriding political question of our time. That question is: What about the poor, when will their turn come? The people who asked that still wait for an answer.

No, we do not need an economic manager in these times. Nor do we need another charismatic figure, one who will feed the masses with illusions in lieu of dreams, with opium in lieu of medicine, with the hope of getting rich by winning lotteries in lieu of the hope of winning a better future by hard work. We need an ordinary mortal who rises to extraordinariness by the heroic nature of her vision, by the epic nature of her quest, by the monumental scale of her dedication to it. We need someone who is humble enough to hear the voice of the people and is proud enough to bend the world to their will. We need someone who can push people to transcend themselves and, doing thus, pull them to reach for things beyond their grasp.

We need, in sum, a leader.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@yasia.com

Despite recruitment efforts no mass actions materialized

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS I write this column, it appears that the feared massive actions against the government, including a coup attempt, did not materialize; the Edsa Dos observance came and went without any disturbance. There were efforts by anti-administration forces to recruit people for mass actions reportedly at P500 per head, but the traditional depressed areas, where pockets of resistance were earlier feared, turned out to be peaceful. Doubtless a lot of the tranquility was due to the resolution of the Metro Manila mayors, some of whom were once allied with deposed President Estrada in the past, to police their areas against destabilization. Cheers to the Metro Manila mayors. It was also a good idea for the Church people to prohibit political rallies at the Edsa Shrine as these could be inflammatory and further exacerbate divisions, not to mention provide targets for violence. It was also good that the administration called off all massive celebrations and instead, the President visited depressed areas and distributed goodies.

We citizens thank the Lord for the blessing of enlightenment of those in authority, and the peace and tranquility of the last few days.

* * *

The disavowal by some 73 young military and police officers identified with the Young Officers Union of having anything to do with any plot to destabilize the Macapagal administration was a most welcome development and their resolution, presented to the President, doubtless arise from the depths of their patriotism and love of country. The YOU manifesto of support for the government came in the wake of disavowals also by older officers in the RAM of any plan to join destabilization moves. The YOU officers must have realized that judging from the experience of the past, nothing can be gained from such destabilization attempts as the people will not support them; the young officers also doubtless realize that the future of the country, including that of their own children, will be jeopardized by any destabilization.

God bless these officers, and at this point, the citizens look forward to normalization and hard work ahead of us to cope with the economic crisis and the real battle against poverty and corruption.

* * *

Senate President Franklin Drilon is one official who knows how to turn criticism into something positive for him. The Catholic bishops led by its President, Bishop Orlando Quevedo, have criticized the Senate for becoming "an embarrassing circus" with its "inane behavior." Drilon, instead of being offended, shared the bishops' lament and explained that his chamber is a mere reflection of the "bigger society" and its deep divisions arising from the "intense passion and heat" of the political events. Drilon did not say it, but I think the bishops were referring to the inane hearings spearheaded by the opposition, such as those that sought to hear out the accusations of Robert Rivero and Pacifico Marcelo against the administration, which failed to establish solid evidence.

After appealing to his colleagues to set aside partisan politics so that they could hasten the approval of crucial legislation, the Senate chief then promised the bishops and the public a "more productive" Senate this year. He outlined the specific issues to be addressed with legislative action, such as the need for mass housing and the development of countryside and barangay enterprises, setting a specific timetable for specific legislative targets.

From Drilon's assurance, the YOU manifesto and the citizens' clamor for peace and unity, the message is clear: let's unite to move this country forward. *Walang tutulong sa atin kundi tayong mga Pilipino.*

* * *

Last Friday morning, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez and I pre-taped two radio shows over dzRH for our regular Sunday evening program which tackles various efforts to alleviate poverty. Cecile and I felt that we would best observe Edsa Dos by devoting two programs to a most important movement launched last week, but which could have a far-reaching effect on the economy; in fact, the economic survival of this nation could hinge on this movement, because if it is successful, the movement could save tens of thousands of jobs; without adequate jobs, the country could plunge into deeper crisis. I'm referring to the "Buy Pinoy Movement" launched by various business groups. We invited to our dzRH show three of the movement's key leaders: Raul Concepcion of Concepcion Industries, who chairs the "Buy Philippine-Made" movement; Sergio Ortiz-Luis, new president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Francis Chua, chair of the trade and industry committee of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

* * *

As Ortiz-Luis explained it, the businessmen's thesis was simple. The global recession was already foreseen even before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, but after that so much uncertainty spread around the world; in the Philippines, exporters saw their markets abroad shrinking and with it, prospects of keeping their factories running. But they also worried about continued jobs for their people. The businessmen got together and said to one another: Let's just keep manufacturing, and try to sell our goods to the local market while the world market still remains uncertain. This way, they reasoned, our people may be able to keep their jobs. As the businessmen see it, the market of nearly 80 million Filipinos is a very big market; if only these 80 million buy more Philippine-made goods and services, the factories and companies based here would be able to survive. The campaign now is to get Filipinos to patronize goods made here by Filipino hands, and this includes foreign brands manufactured locally, and services by Pinoys. In short, anything that generates jobs HERE. The rallying cry is "Buy Pinoy. Save Jobs." For the businessmen, it's a matter of national survival. I agree.

* * *

In pursuit of its goals of more food on the table, more jobs for people (about a million a year is the target) and shelter over their heads, the Macapagal administration convened a National Socio-Economic Summit last Dec. 10; it drew active participation from the business community whose members dutifully attended the various pre-summit workshops set up to identify specific goals and time frames. A day after that summit, the business community, in response to GMA's appeal, launched its "Buy Pinoy Movement," with just about every chamber of commerce involved from north to south.

(To be continued)

A Surigao example

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

PANHUTONGAN. The name hardly rings a bell. But in 1990 to 1993, this small village in Placer, Surigao del Norte was the site of remarkable archaeological discoveries that changed the marginal existence of its village folks. In what turned out to be a fruitful collaboration between the government, the private sector and the academe, the Panhutongan discoveries may yet become a paradigm for heritage preservation that does not necessarily have to stand in the way of progress. Perhaps the Manila and Cagayan de Oro city governments can take their cues from this lowly Surigaonon village.

In September 1990, repairs were undertaken at the decades-old school building of the Panhutongan Primary School. In the midst of repair work, village laborers accidentally unearthed three dugout wooden coffins, each bearing human skeletal remains and Chinese trade ceramics all placed upside down on the faces of the humans whose remains were found.

Fernando A. Almeda Jr., president of the Surigaonon Heritage Center and who has written a book on northeastern Mindanao history, contacted a friend from the academe, Dr. Leslie Bauzon of the University of the Philippines who subsequently visited Panhutongan.

As always, money is a basic necessity in excavation work, at times much of it. Thus, in March 1991, Bauzon and Dr. Eusebio Dizon of the National Museum formulated a proposal that sought help for the necessary funding assistance.

The response was heartwarming. Well-known private individuals and organizations came to their rescue, among whom where Dr. Estefania Aldaba Lim, Oriental Ceramics Society of the Philippines, Caltex Philippines, Ugnayang Pang-Agham Tao, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and two Japanese corporate institutions, the Toyota Foundation and the Daiwa Bank Foundation for Asia and Oceania.

The first field season at Panhutongan in November 1991 yielded additional wooden artifacts and ceramic fragments, and what turned out to be a stone structural foundation. Another field season in April to May 1992 included some blue opaque and transparent glass beads eventually traced as African in origin.

In the subsequent field seasons of 1992 and 1993, the team convinced the Department of Education officials of Surigao del Norte to demolish the old building and replace it with a new building on a relocated site. Thus, excavations continued unhampered on the grounds below the old school building.

The team unearthed *in situ* entire assemblages of human skeletal remains in three different layers. In addition, there were more associated cultural materials such as blue and white Chinese trade wares in perfect condition, metal tools, spear points, ornaments, a medallion and a smoking pipe.

Almeda could not have chosen a more appropriate person for the project. Archaeological dating techniques are expensive ventures, one reason why there is still much to be desired in reconstructing the cultural chronology of a Third World country such as the Philippines. At that time however, Bauzon was a visiting professor of the University of Tsukuba in Japan. Counting on the support of his colleagues in the Japanese academe, Bauzon enlisted the help of Prof. Kunihiko Kigoshi of the Gakushuin University Radiocarbon Laboratory.

A wood sample from the stone foundation was dated by Kigoshi through radiocarbon test as 1260 A.D. Aside from the fact that the stone structural foundation was the first of its kind to be found outside Manila and Cebu, the date indicates that a structure once existed on Mindanao soil 261 years before the coming of Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. Moreover, a bone sample taken from the site was dated by Kigoshi as 140 A.D. This is the oldest chronological age established so far for a human skeletal remain in the whole of Mindanao. (*We therefore correct the error we stated in our Dec. 24, 2001 column that the Huluga remains found in Cagayan de Oro in 1970 was the oldest.*—AJM)

But the best part of the Panhutongan discoveries is the impact it played on the life of the villagers and the different social sectors of Surigao del Norte. At the outset, the team was met with cold indifference by the villagers who thought of them as no more than treasure hunters. Slowly, however, the project caused the infusion of capital into the village economy by hiring local laborers, renting their houses, buying the catch of local fishers and patronizing their *sari-sari* stores.

In addition, the project also resulted in the improvement of the village chapel and the day-care center, and in donations for the Panhutongan Mother's Club.

The most long-lasting impact, however, came when the team was able to convince the DepEd to construct a new school building with a built-in museum to house the artifacts. Tourist-destination Panhutongan would in effect stimulate economic activity in the barrio.

On top of these, the provincial government of Surigao del Norte and the municipal government of Placer, together with the Manila Mining Corp. in Placer, worked together to repair the Panhutongan bridge and road. Eventually, the road saw inclusion in the Senate's Public Works Bill of 1994 for its asphalting in 1995.

At times, however, it is the intangible effects of history work that have a long-lasting influence. The Panhutongan schoolchildren will have the rare advantage of an on-site museum, thus affording them the intellectual and cultural knowledge of Filipino identity and patrimony.

History and heritage work need not be an ivory tower. Panhutongan tells us that history is something not necessarily detached from the struggles of daily life. Sadly, school textbooks in dire need of updating do not ever mention the important Panhutongan finds. Filipino students owe it for the sake of truth that even in national history, Mindanao is not merely on its margins and footnotes where it is commonly relegated to.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

The loveless epic of J.R.R. Tolkien

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

WHEN my 9-year-old nephew decides that a movie is good enough to watch a second time, even with grownups, that movie has got to be good, in some quintessentially entertaining way. After all, his normal diversions run along a tight axis between Counterstrike anti-terrorist network gaming and the hottest new games for the Sony Playstation.

I was curious what the draw of the movie was for him, so I agreed to watch the movie version of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy for a second time. It has been a worldwide blockbuster at the box office and digital animators salute the makers of this movie for making special effects unobvious and unobtrusive to the audience, yet breathtaking.

Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings," has a dominant stature in the epic fantasy genre. It was even voted "Book of the Millennium" in a 1999 Amazon.com users poll, which followed a more modest 1997 selection in a poll by the British bookstore chain Waterstones and BBC's Channel 4, as "Book of the Century." Also voted "Author of the Century" Tolkien, in real life, is Oxford University professor of philology, the science of language, words and linguistics. The film and books are replete with his original inventions and use of words based on old Anglo-Saxon, Celtic and other ancient legends and texts.

Yet, in that vast imagined canvas of Middle Earth, with the titanic forces of good and evil fighting the great ancient battle, couldn't Tolkien have found and worked in, even one good love story? (Maybe that is why young kids don't mind watching it over and over again. There's not a lot of that kissing, embarrassing stuff.)

Tolkien devotees answer charges that it is a loveless, boyish fantasy story, by pointing out that in the movie, there is a touching scene between Aragorn, the future human king of Gondor, and Arwyn, the Gorgeous Immortal Elf, in which they sweetly kiss. She pledges to give up her immortality for a single mortal existence with him as his Queen, handing him a crystalline token of her heart. But this promise of interspecies genetic commingling and an abdication of immortality, is entirely too weird to be anything more than ornamental, like king and queen of the Senior Prom, and is neither seriously developed nor pursued in the book or film.

Even the hobbit girls of the Shire, at least as portrayed in the movie, were not exactly paragons of young pulchritude, being more like Miss Piggy's older sisters with hairy feet, based on what little is shown of them during Bilbo Baggins "eleventy-first" or 111th birthday celebration. (Note Tolkien's counting...eighty, ninety, tenty, eleventy...) No wonder Frodo Baggins, the bearer of the Ring of Power, later leaves the equivalent of Ye Olde Shire KTV Bar way before midnight, and in the company of Samwise Gamgee at that. This is how rumors start in Middle Earth.

In the story proper, four hobbits, Frodo and Sam, Merry and Pippin, form the core of the Fellowship of the Ring, which is a kind nine-person United Nations Special Forces, commissioned by a Council of Middle Earth, to destroy Sauron's golden Ring of Power by tossing it into the Crack of Mt. Doom, where it was made to begin with.

Gimli the Dwarf vaguely recalls a Russian czar with the annoyingly indefinite gaze of the cross-eyed, but his battle axe decapitates many an orc and ogre in the plentiful scenes of mayhem and mythic battle. Legolas, the elfin Archer, is squeakily clean and unbelievably blond throughout the most gruesome battles, but he puts arrows with deadly precision between the eyes of the marauding masses of orcs who look suspiciously like Zulu warriors cross-bred with Australian aborigines. The two humans, Boromir, and Aragorn, complete the Fellowship with the wizard Gandalf.

The Council is chaired by the elfin king, Elrond, whom I swear would easily pass for a Medieval Tony Blair in a kilt and hair braids. But he stays comfortably in Rivendell. Gandalf the Wise, the Council's *consigliere* and the leader of the coalition, err, Fellowship, is a folksy American cowboy, Uncle Sam in a wizard's costume, always ready to give the kids a Fourth of July fireworks display, using magical technology of course. Gandalf is the most adroit rendition of a wizard in a pointy hat since, well, Mickey Mouse in the mesmerizing Disney classic, "Fantasia." And of course, I had to reassure my nephew that even though Gandalf has fallen into the Gap of Rohan after a titanic battle with the beast Balrog, that is not the last we have seen of him. There are two more movies already in the can to follow the "Fellowship of the Ring," namely, "The Twin Towers" and "The Return of the King."

There is actually a 10th, sort of ex-officio member of the Fellowship of the Ring. This is the strange creature Gollum, whose exact species is not identified, but who is in some ways the most intriguing in the whole gallery of strange creatures that populate Tolkien's epic. You see, Gollum has only the purest love for the Ring, in which he is obsessed and which consumes him body and soul.

The grand theme that runs through the "Lord of the Rings" is the ancient fight between good and evil. It comes at a serendipitous time for the movie producers, since its 20th century World War flavor resonates with the ongoing war on terrorism. There is no mistaking the undertones of anti-fascist, anti-totalitarian sentiments in the very fiber of the epic, reflecting Tolkien's historical context. These sentiments are perfectly serviceable in today's world of an anti-terrorist crusade. Maybe that is why Saruman, the traitorous former ally of Gandalf who sells out to Sauron, is a dead ringer for Osama bin Laden.

With elves, dwarves, orcs, ogres, monsters, men and wizards running around Tolkien's version of the World according to Dr. Moreau, there is, paradoxically, too much room to contain something as mundane and conventional as simple human emotion. Everything in the "Lord of the Rings" is done on a heroic, mythic scale. But there is no great love story within it. I suppose that was reserved for "Gone with the Wind," the second place finisher in the Amazon poll for the millennial tome.

Unguarded statements and news leaks

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

WITH THE PREVAILING unstable peace and order condition in the country, military and police officials have become daily fare in the media.

Hardly a day passes without the spokespersons of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or Philippine National Police being interviewed to give an update on crimes or acts of violence that seem to occur with demoralizing regularity in different parts of the archipelago.

A retired judge, who said he has the luxury of time to closely examine the contents of the INQUIRER, wrote to express his disappointment with the way some members of the media handle interviews with these officials.

The reader believes "media people should not 'bait' military and police officials who want to see their name in print or TV, or otherwise seek self-glory, into leaking or otherwise making public certain information which should otherwise have remained classified so that their effectivity can be ensured.

"How many times do we hear or read of a military or police officer crow something like 'the suspect, the son of a mayor of a certain town, is known to be hiding in, say, Angeles City, and that tomorrow we will send out a team to arrest him.'

"Would you expect that suspect, innocent or guilty, to remain in Angeles City and await his possible captors? Or even if he knew that the city mentioned was a red herring, would he not know that his whereabouts had been pinpointed and therefore impel him to immediately move out to some other place? Those wanted by the law usually manage to hear or read such news reports, be they in print, TV or radio. Or even if they don't hear or read about them, their friends who did would relay the information to them by any means available.

"I blame the media for this because too many police or military officials are hogs for the limelight and, given the chance, the latter would take the opportunity to show off and brag to give the impression that they are 'on the ball.'

"Assuming that what should be classified as tactical information is somehow leaked to media men, should not the latter keep the same confidential so as not to endanger the operation plans? Or, at least, hold on to the information until the operation is already well underway; or better still, after its completion?"

Duty to report

There is no question that the INQUIRER has regularly published the statements or updates by military and police officials about their work assignments.

Unless those statements are perceived to have a hidden agenda, for example, to malign the suspects (especially if they are politicians) or are simply outlandish (read: products of fantasy), the newspaper believes it will be remiss in its responsibility to inform the public of the events that affect their lives if it does not publish those statements.

Contrary to the impression of the reader, there is no need to bait these officials into talking about things that should be kept under wraps. According to some INQUIRER reporters, most of them freely give information even without prodding. The joy of seeing their faces on TV or their names printed in the newspaper or hearing replays of their interview on radio is simply irresistible to some men in uniform.

I do not think the reporters should be blamed for writing about their interviews with the authorities. That's what they are hired for and that's why there is freedom of the press. The public has the right to know what the officials who spend their tax money are doing.

There is an unwritten rule in the editorial rooms of newspapers that unless the resource person specifically says that his statements are "off the record" or should not be written about, every word uttered or gesture made in the course of the briefing can be the subject of a news report.

So why punish the messenger for relaying the message that a source has willingly provided and who has not given any instructions for it to be kept from public view?

If the officials concerned keep their mouths shut about ongoing operations, there is nothing the media can report that might alert the suspects into hieing off to more secure hideouts. No doubt, the reporters will understand if the officials assume a "no comment" stance when pressed for information that might jeopardize or endanger the success of their activities.

The suggestion of the reader that media personnel keep confidential information that may have been leaked to them until after the operation has been completed is meritorious. Except that in the highly competitive world of news reporting, where reporters fiercely compete for scoops or exclusive reports and, if that is not possible, at least equal coverage of events, that form of self-regulation will be difficult to maintain.

Picture a situation where two reporters from competing newspapers know confidential information about a rescue effort. One reporter kept it under wraps until the operation was completed; the other wrote about it while the rescue was underway with an eye to publishing the news in time with the release of the next day's edition.

The following day, news about the operation came out only in the latter reporter's newspaper. Woe to the reporter who observed secrecy discipline. He will never hear the end of it from his editors if they learn that he had the materials for the news but did not use them and, as a result, the competitor put one over them in bringing out that news.

Public statements

Last Jan. 10, the INQUIRER's banner headline read "FVR men hit GMA for lack of governance." The supporting news stated that former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat, who is also chair of the Federation of Retired Commissioned and Enlisted Soldiers, said that President Macapagal is "neglecting her governance" and that the "emphasis of her governance is toward 2002."

In the afternoon of the same day, a radio station reported that the President confronted Abat about the report and that he said that the news report did not accurately reflect his comments.

Because the credibility of the INQUIRER was put on the line by that statement from Malacañang, the reporter concerned was asked to explain the source of his news report. It turned out he had a transcript of his interview with Abat that confirmed the things he wrote.

When sought for clarification on the subject matter, Abat, without denying the statements attributed to him, said in his letter to the editor that his action was meant "to simply inform her of prevailing public perception regarding the quality of her governance as well as her plans for 2002." In other words, the news report was accurate and there was no misquotation.

There are two lessons that public officials can learn from this incident: first, they should be very careful with their public statements especially if they involve their superiors; second, the INQUIRER reporters are equipped with tape recorders to record their interviews or, in the absence of that important facility, diligently keep and preserve the notes of their dealings with important personalities.

Careful. Careful.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Choosing a venue for the SEA Games

WITH AIR pollution at its worst, stinking garbage everywhere, ubiquitous squatters, crazy traffic, terrible heat, inadequate supply of clean water, rising criminality, Manila would be the worst site for the Southeast Asian Games.

Forget Bacolod City. The Panaad Sports Complex at Mansilingan is too far from civilization that people in the city don't bother to watch national games there. This sports complex is mainly for athletics and swimming. If people would like to watch other games like basketball and volleyball, they have to travel all the way to De La Salle University which is located at the far end of the city. Except for some local attractions like *Palapala, lechon manok, pinasugbo* and *piyaya*, Bacolod really has nothing spectacular to offer to visitors. It's a small city for such a big event.

Now, not Cebu City. The sports venues in this city are too far scattered. In the last Palarong Pambansa in this city, the sports managers had a nightmare running the games because of far distances between venues. The Abellana Sports Complex located in crowded downtown is too small for international competitions. The city would be hard put in looking for vast, open spaces for the new sports complex. The roads are narrow and ill-planned (you can easily get lost in this city) causing terrible traffic when big events are held in this city like the past Palarong Pambansa. The city is very hot during the summer months and worse, it has no adequate water supply.

There are only two ideal sites for the SEA Games: Clark-Pampanga and Laguna. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and national sports officials should consider these: Clark has the former Clark Airbase, Expo Pilipino, world-class shopping malls for PX goods and nearby, the internationally known Subic Freeport.

Laguna has Laguna Lake, Pagsanjan falls and rapids, Calamba and Los Baños hot springs, Rizal Shrine, Villa Escudero, Enchanted Kingdom, Paete carvings, Lumban barongs, International Rice Research Institute, science parks and the enchanted Mt. Makiling.

Clark and Laguna are strategically located. Clark can easily be reached from Manila by the North Expressway. Laguna is just a one- to two-hour ride from Manila via the South Expressway. Clark has vast, flat and open spaces for new sports facilities and amenities. It has an international airport. There are existing sports facilities of international standards at nearby Pangasinan. Staging the SEA Games in Clark would mean the rehabilitation of Expo Filipino, making it world-class.

Laguna is the best site for the SEA Games. The air in this place is clean and the weather is cool year-round. Even the rains linger during summer allowing farmers to plant rice three times a year. The Governor San Luis Sports Complex is well-planned and well-designed: facilities for athletics, ball games and swimming are just in one area. It still has vast open spaces for additional sports facilities and amenities. Nearby, the University of the Philippines in Los Baños has an excellent football field and ballpark. Nearby San Pablo City has two Olympic-size swimming pools. Man-made Caliraya Lake is ideal for water sports and world-class resort-hotels abound. Peace and order is good in Laguna, and with its abundant supply of clean, cool, sweet, mineral water and fruits, it is definitely the best choice.—**M.C. BLAUTA, Encarnacion Village, Maitim, Bay, Laguna**

LETTERS

Independence of CA should be preserved

THE INQUIRER quoted on Jan. 11, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as saying in a radio interview: "I advised them to campaign among the CA members and explain their programs and qualifications." She was referring to her Cabinet appointees who were bypassed by the Commission on Appointments.

From what I know of our Constitution, the commission serves as a "check and balance" mechanism instituted to ensure that the people appointed to sensitive and critical government positions are qualified. For this reason, the commission must be independent and objective in order to be effective. And to be independent and objective, I believe it must be insulated from political tactics.

The commission should make an evaluation of the appointee based on his records, and supplemented by the panel interview. But to campaign for confirmation? This tactic reeks of politics!

The bottom line is that for the commission to do its job well, there should be no room for negotiation and deal-making. Everybody must respect this. Even the President.

In the same issue, it was reported that former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez withdrew from being considered for the ambassadorship to Germany. He was quoted to have said, "Out of *delicadeza* and to prevent any embarrassment to the appointing authority if I am not confirmed, may I request that I not be reappointed to the said position."

See, some people can still take the road less traveled.—**MH YUSINGCO, mhyusingco@hotmail.com**

Nestlé protests misleading, libelous advertisement

A PAID advertisement appeared in the Jan. 18 issue of the INQUIRER. It can easily be mistaken as a legitimate INQUIRER story because the layout appears to have a byline and worse, does not even carry a footnote that it is a "paid advertisement."

We at Nestlé are obviously very disappointed that this has seen print. The article contains distorted facts, lies and malicious statements which are meant to confuse the readers of the relevant issues behind the illegal strike. These are damaging and libelous to the company which I represent and to my person, together with those of my colleagues.

I wish to state the following facts:

1. The factory workers in Cabuyao remain among the best paid in the food industry. On average, a Nestlé worker in Cabuyao receives an annual total compensation of P490,000, consisting of guaranteed cash compensation, variable and other benefits.

2. The 1991 decision of the Supreme Court applied only to the CBA dispute in 1987. The circumstances then were completely different from the present.

3. The Nestlé Philippines Retirement Plan is one of the best in the country. No less than the union officers themselves have acknowledged this.

4. Penpro Inc. is a realty company duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). It is by no means a secret company as its articles of incorporation, by-laws and audited financial statements are available to anyone who inquires with the SEC. Penpro is owned 60 percent by the Nestlé Retirement Fund and 40 percent by Nestlé Philippines Inc. It owns the land where the company's various factories are located.

5. I am an incorporator of Penpro, together with other company executives. Each of us holds one share in the company which qualifies us to sit as members of Penpro's board of directors. None of us receives any salary or any other financial gains when performing our tasks as directors of Penpro. All the revenues and returns that Penpro generates as a realty company go to its rightful shareholders.

6. As to the Retirement Fund, it is managed by reputable banking institutions. The investment in Penpro is just one of the many investments made by the fund, as determined by the fund managers for its continuous growth and viability.

7. The funds for the maturing liabilities of the retirement plan are contributed solely by the company. Our employees do not contribute any amount to the Retirement Fund.

8. Nestlé Philippines is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nestlé S.A. based in Switzerland. In our over 100 years of existence in the Philippines, we have built a solid reputation as a responsible employer and member of the community.—**J.B. SANTOS, chair and CEO, Nestlé Philippines Inc., Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City**

THE ADVERTISEMENT should have been properly identified with the words "PAID ADVT" as is our normal practice. We regret the omission.—**Ed.**

Lenny Villa decision simply appalling

LENNY Villa's father was a close friend of mine. He died of a broken heart, so I'll take up the cudgels for him.

The Court of Appeals' decision effectively exonerating the culprits in Lenny's death was, quite simply, appalling.

What on earth does "conspiracy" have to do with anything? Lenny was beaten to death in a barbaric rite that should never have been tolerated by anyone. Least of all, people who are or will be, involved in law.

The concept and practice of law was developed precisely to stop the barbarism that existed before societies were formed. And beating up someone is not part of civilized society.

The judges in this case cautioned there may be public backlash; well there certainly is. Their myopia in failing to understand what the real issue was indicates a dangerous trend in law: to get trapped in technical detail and forget that law was created to serve society's best interests.

Society's best interest in this case was to send the strongest possible message that such barbaric practices won't be tolerated by society.

The judges failed miserably. I feel sad for Gerrie, Lenny's mother, who now has another wound inflicted on her.—**PETER WALLACE, president, The Wallace Business Forum, 14th Floor, Sagittarius Bldg., HV dela Costa St., Makati City**

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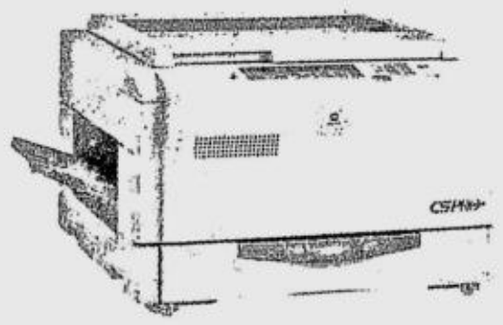
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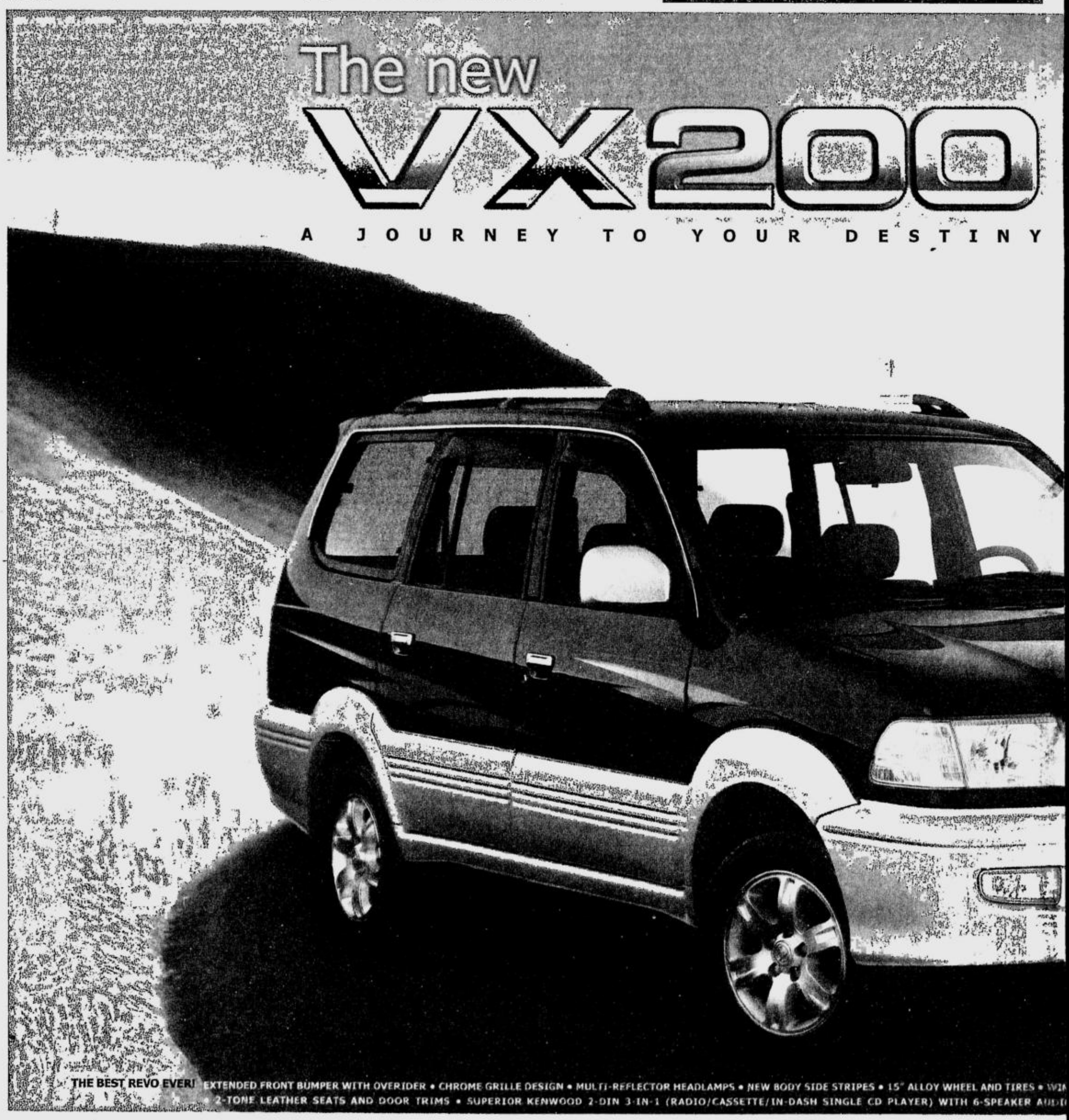

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Musharraf says tensions will not translate to war

WASHINGTON—Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said he did not believe tensions between his country and neighboring India will translate into a shooting war.

"Let me assure you from a military point of view, from a diplomatic-political point of view, I don't think there can be war—unless there's some mad action, but that's always a possibility," Musharraf told Newsweek magazine in an interview for Monday's issue.

He said India had downgraded the alert status of its air force and had refrained from deploying some ground forces "that would give them the full potential for an offensive."

But Musharraf said the two countries should make a serious effort to resolve their dispute over the Himalayan region of Kashmir, which has fueled regional tensions for nearly 50 years.

"Both groups have to show realism and flexibility and reach a solution," he said. "There is no doubt in my mind that we can reach a solution.

Pakistan and India have massed 800,000 troops along their common border since last month's deadly attack on the Indian parliament blamed by New Delhi on militants allegedly backed by Islamabad.

Musharraf has outlawed five militant organizations, including two accused by New Delhi of being behind the attack, but India has ruled out an immediate pullback of its forces. *AFP*

A SIKH boy holds a sword Jan. 19 during a procession to celebrate the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh. Singh, born in 1666 and died in 1708, was the 10th and last Guru of the Sikhs. AFP

New terror arrests around the world

KABUL—Afghan police confirmed that security forces captured six unarmed al-Qaida members and their driver in Kabul, the first arrests of Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden's followers in the capital.

Six armed men holed up in a Kandahar hospital for a month are receiving food and medicine, despite orders that they be starved out, city police chief Zabid Akram said. The wounded men are suspected of being al-Qaida members, but Akram approved the deliveries.

"According to UN criteria, they are patients and when the doctors assure us that they are healthy, then we will prepare a special operation against them," Akram said.

Malaysian police detained without trial another seven people believed to be linked to the terrorist network, Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said in Kuala Lumpur.

The arrests came less than a month after the detention of 15 people with suspected ties to Zacarias Moussaoui, a Frenchman on trial in the United States for his alleged role in the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Two more suspected al-Qaida members were arrested near the northeastern Spanish city of Barcelona, raising concerns that Spain could be home to "sleeper cells."

British police obtained an extension to further detain nine of the 17 people netted during the week in an anti-terrorist operation. Three others were held by immigration services, one was released and the status of four unknown.

French authorities found evidence that accused "shoe bomber" Richard Reid had support in France and elsewhere in Europe, a source close to the probe said.

Investigators seized hard drives in a Paris cybercafe that Reid frequented shortly before the Dec. 22 Paris-Miami flight that US officials say Reid boarded with explosives in his shoes. *AFP*

Colombia rebs face ultimatum

LOS POZOS, Colombia—Facing a Sunday deadline, Colombia's Marxist FARC guerrillas met government negotiators on Saturday to hammer out a timetable for a ceasefire even as 35 people died in army-rebel clashes.

President Andres Pastrana, frustrated at the slow pace of three-year-old peace talks, has told the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) they must agree by Sunday to a timetable for negotiating a ceasefire in the 38-year-old guerrilla war.

If not, the president has said the army will seize back a demilitarized area, the size of Switzerland, in the south, which has been the site of thus-far fruitless negotiations for three years.

On Saturday, foreign diplomats met FARC senior commanders and government envoys at a thatch-roofed hut deep in the jungle-and-savanna FARC territory. The rebels, who on Monday backed down in the face of a threatened army offensive, were studying a government proposal for negotiating a ceasefire.

Breaking after more than eight hours of talks, government peace negotiator Camilo Gomez said the meeting will continue on Sunday and condemned the FARC's attacks.

"I want to emphatically repudiate the escalation of violence in the country," the cigar-chomping Gomez told reporters outside the remote and dusty hamlet of Los Pozos.

Gomez said the government had not received any rebel proposal on a ceasefire and warned that "time is running out."

As talks continued, about 12,000 soldiers—backed by light tanks—were encamped at the borders of the rebel-controlled enclave. *Reuters*

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US mum about bugs aboard Chinese president's plane

WASHINGTON—With President George W. Bush's visit to China a month away, administration officials were mum about reports that at least 27 bugs were found aboard their president's new Boeing 767.

"We never discuss these kinds of allegations," White House spokesperson Taylor Gross said by telephone Saturday.

The tiny bugs could be operated by satellite, according to separate reports Saturday in the Financial Times and the Washington Post, which quoted unnamed Chinese and Western sources.

Chinese aviation and military officials said US intelligence agencies planted the bugs while the plane was being refitted in the United States, The Washington Post reported Saturday.

The news came a month before Bush's planned visit to Beijing, 30 years to the day after Richard Nixon and Mao Zedong became the first presidents of the two countries ever to meet.

However, the US State Department considers this is a matter for the spy masters.

"We don't comment on intelligence matters," State Department spokesperson Brenda Greenberg said by telephone.

The Post reported that bugs were discovered even in the presidential bathroom and the headboard of the president's bed.

Sources said Jiang was furious at the discovery, but there was no immediate official reaction from Beijing and no local new coverage.

China on Sunday remained silent about reports, as Vice President Hu Jintao told a delegation of former US ambassadors and academics that Beijing wants good ties with Washington.

A Chinese foreign ministry official said the ministry did not have a response to the reports by the Financial Times and the Washington Post.

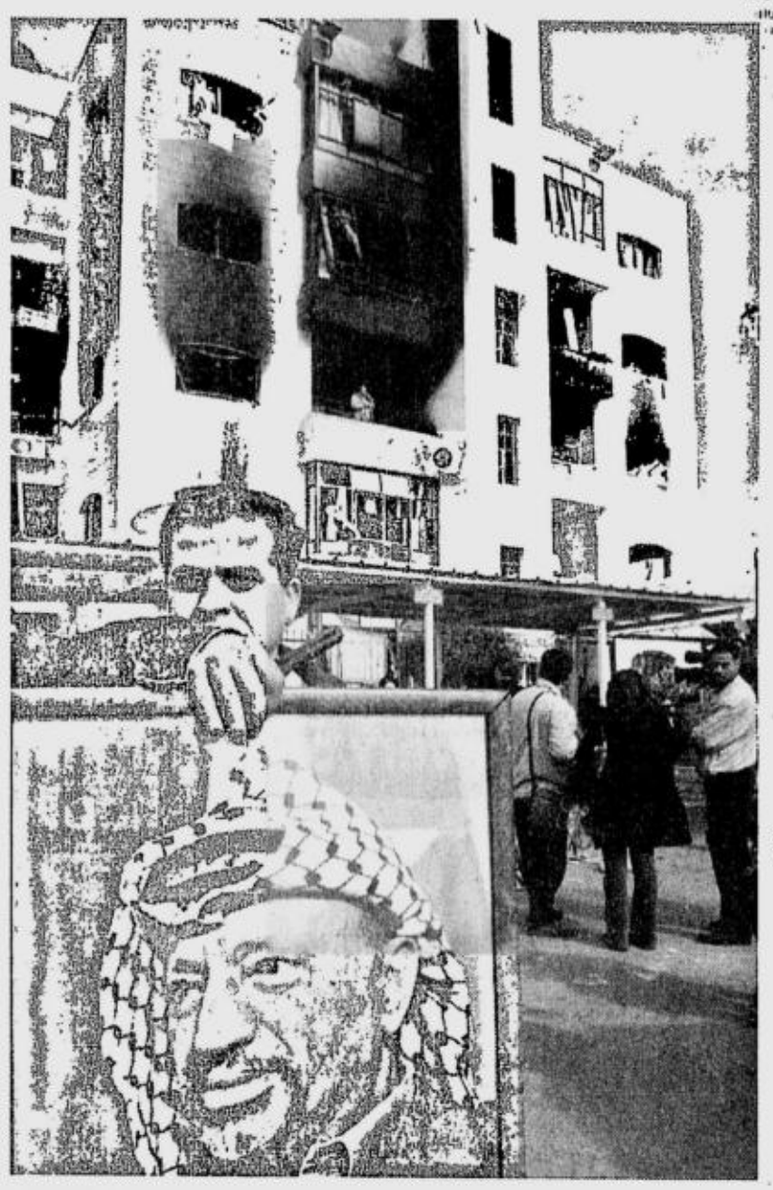
"We're still trying to contact relevant departments on this matter," she said. "We will notify you when we have a comment."

The story was not carried by any local media.

Chinese experts discovered the bugs when the plane started to emit a "strange static whine" in September, a month after it was delivered, according to the Financial Times.

As many as 20 Chinese air force officers and two officials of the Chinese corporation that purchased the plane were detained on suspicion of corruption and negligence, said the Post. A senior officer in the Chinese air force was also detained.

Such bugging is fodder for speculation, which ranges far beyond suspicion of the United States. Factions within the Chinese military establishment could want to know what's on their president's mind, said Jean-Pierre Cabestan of the French Center for Research on Contemporary China in Hong Kong. *AFP*



A PALESTINIAN man holds a picture of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in front of the Voice of Palestine radio station building in the West Bank city of Ramallah Jan. 19. Israeli troops have blown up the Voice of Palestine radio station offices in an apparent fresh retribution for a Palestinian shooting attack on Thursday that killed six people. REUTERS

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a decision in **DARAB Case No. 5461** (Reg. Case No. IV-QuII-121-95) entitled **SPS. JOSE AVETRIA and PAULA AVETRIA versus HEIRS of ARTEMIO BATRALO represented by REYNALDO BATRALO** was promulgated by the DAR Adjudication Board, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City on March 23, 2000.

Counsels and parties to this case particularly **Reynaldo Batralo** whose last known address was in **Brgy. Mayubok, Pitogo, Quezon** are hereby advised to get a copy of the said decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of the posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision to this case shall become final and executory.

January 9, 2002. Diliman, Quezon City.

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

Inquirer-Jan. 14&21,2002

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Q. C

NOTICE

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NOV. 28, 2001

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR)

Inquirer-Jan. 14,21&28,2002

Fatah warns against any bid to harm Arafat

GAZA CITY—The Palestinian political group Fatah on Saturday warned Israel against "any attack" against their chief and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who remains confined in the West Bank by Israeli troops.

"We warn Israel against any attack against Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and we demand it cease its military escalation," the group said in a statement released in Gaza City.

Fatah also called on its "supporters and the Palestinian people to mobilize," saying that Israel has "passed all the red lines by positioning its tanks close to the office of Mr. Arafat."

Israel has escalated its campaign against Arafat's Palestinian Authority following a shooting spree by a gunman from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a radical Fatah offshoot, which left six Israelis dead late Thursday in the northern city of Hadera.

The militant group said the Hadera attack was in retaliation for the death of one of its West Bank leaders, killed in an explosion the group blamed on Israel.

Israeli troops early Saturday dynamited the offices of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corp. in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Its tanks and armored personnel carriers the day before also notably moved to within 50 meters of Arafat's offices in the same city.

Israel has confined the Palestinian leader to virtual house arrest at his offices in the city since Dec. 3, following a series of devastating suicide bombings by militants he had pledged to control.

Israel had told Arafat he could not leave Ramallah until he arrests all the members of another militant group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who killed Israeli Minister Rehavam Zeevi in October.

Fatah has been run by Arafat since it was created in 1959 and forms the main component of the Palestine Liberation Organization. *AFP*

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Eruption refugees shun camps

GOMA, Congo—Congolese who fled Africa's most destructive volcanic eruption in 25 years have begun going home despite the arrival of foreign help, risking everything on the chance that no more lava will engulf their ruined home town.

Braving violent earth tremors, a growing tide of Congolese among more than 300,000 who left the eastern town of Goma on Thursday started returning late on Saturday, saying they did not want to become refugees in Rwanda and anyway there was little aid there to obtain.

"We've only seen damage in one part of the town," said Goma resident Zaza Lwango, who fled to the Rwandan town of Gisenyi because of the three-day-old eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo.

"Compared with what we're facing in Rwanda, it's better to go back home," he said, his car jammed in a queue of lorries at the border between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. *Reuters*

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2 cops linked to kidnaps face raps

BY DENNIS JAY C. SANTOS AND ANTHONY S. ALLADA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Several witnesses are willing to back up allegations by at least three suspected kidnappers that two ranking police officers in Southern Mindanao have been protecting the Pentagon kidnap group.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, regional police chief, yesterday said he had already recommended the filing of criminal and administrative charges against Supt. Willie Dangane, field operations officer of the Task Force Sanlahi-Pentagon, a unit of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf).

"I already made a report to the Chief PNP (Leandro Mendoza) and informed him about this development and the protectors of the kidnapping," Matillano said.

Kalidin Sandigan, Salim Mama and Grace Dulay, suspected Pentagon members who were arrested for alleged involvement in the abduction of Ma. Cristina Bonifacio on Jan. 3 and Canadian Pierre Belanger, issued sworn statements linking Dangane and a certain Ali, reportedly a police senior inspector, to the series of kidnappings in the region.

They said Dangane, allegedly a relative of Pentagon leader Faisal Marohombsar, would from time to time provide them details of the anti-kidnapping operations.

Sandigan, leader of the abductors of Bonifacio, said he was even instructed by Dangane during a meeting in Tacurong City to continue their activities.

Matillano said he pursued his recommendation against Dangane after several witnesses surfaced and said they were willing to help authorities build up the case against Dangane and other police officials.

Matillano said Dangane's cellular number is also one of the entries in "the phone book" of the suspects.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to get Dangane's side.

But Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, police chief for Central Mindanao, said the police official denied allegations when Baluyot confronted Dangane.

"He told me *intriga lang iyon* because he launched successful operations against the Pentagon," Baluyot said.

Another ranking police official said he also doubted the allegations.

The official, who requested anonymity, said intrigue was apparently being sowed against Dangane.

"It was very impossible to think that way. It's difficult to prove his involvement because there's no truth to what they are saying," he said.

The source said it was Dangane who led the successful rescue of Belanger in Panabo City last month.

But Matillano said he had received reports that the operation to rescue Belanger "was just a show."

"I was told there was a ransom pay-off of about P5 million in that operation," he said.

Aside from recommending the filing of charges against Dangane, Matillano said he wanted the Task Force Sanlahi-Pentagon dissolved.

"The Task Force Sanlahi-Pentagon is turning out to be another Kuratong Baleleng or another Red Scorpion group."

"It's very dangerous, the police are orchestrating (the kidnapping activities) and making it appear that it is an intelligence project," Matillano said. ***With a report from Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Parishioners demand return of ousted priest

ILOILO CITY—Supporters of a priest who was accused of corruption have asked the Vatican to reinstate him as parish priest of Tigbauan town, 24 kilometers south of this city.

The supporters, who are parishioners of Fr. Eleuterio Carton, identified themselves as the faithful of Tigbauan town in a two-page petition on Jan. 8 addressed to Pope John Paul II.

They claimed that Carton was just a victim of local politics.

"We are appealing to His Holiness to intercede on behalf of the more than 45,000 Catholics in Tigbauan to reinstate or order the reinstatement of Father Carton to our parish and require the full restitution of his good name and honor which have been greatly maligned," they said.

The pro-Carton group decided to bring their demand to the Pope's attention after Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo did not act on their appeal to reinstate Carton.

It sent two separate petitions to Lagdameo in December, consisting of 361 pages and signed by 7,350 petitioners.

Lagdameo accepted Carton's offer to go on an indefinite leave of absence last month in the wake of charges of mismanagement and corruption hurled against him.

At least 60 parishioners asked Lagdameo to remove Carton for allegedly failing to account for donations to the parish of Tigbauan and several pieces of church property.

Lagdameo explained that Carton was allowed to go on leave not because the priest was found guilty of misdoing but to "open the doors" in uniting the parishioners.

In their petition to the Pope, the pro-Carton group said Iloilo Rep. Oscar Garin (first district) used influence to have Carton removed not only from Tigbauan but from the entire district as well.

The group claimed that the congressman was mad at Carton because he felt alluded to in the priest's homilies against graft and corruption in government and election cheating.

Garin denied any involvement in Carton's ouster, saying he did not interfere in the affairs of the Church.

"In fact, I'm not happy seeing people in government intervene in the exclusive affairs of the Church," he said. "In like manner, I am not pleased to hear Church people meddle in government processes."

Garin said no amount of interference from politicians could influence the decisions of the Church leadership. ***Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Tribal folk storm gold processors

DIPOLOG CITY—More than 1,000 Subanons from an upland village in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte on Wednesday stormed the gold processing plants of alleged illegal miners in the area.

The plants, numbering 18, were ordered dismantled by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau more than a year ago for posing serious health hazards to residents in the area and the town.

The Subanons, who are residents of Sitio Canatuan, are claiming the mining area as part of their ancestral domain and are among those demanding the dismantling of the plants.

Tension rose when several men tried to block the Subanons from demolishing the plants. But the timely arrival of environment regional executive director Teotimo Redulla and MGB regional director Dean Apao eased the situation.

Redulla immediately conducted a dialogue between the two groups.

The Subanons, all members of the Siocon Subanen Association Inc. (SSAI) and led by their legal counsel Pablo Bernardo, said they have decided to demolish the plants even without the presence of police or the DENR because under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act, they have to protect their ancestral domain.

Bernardo said all 18 plants were dismantled.
Lullie Micabalo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will continue to experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 19°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 19°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research/01/21/02

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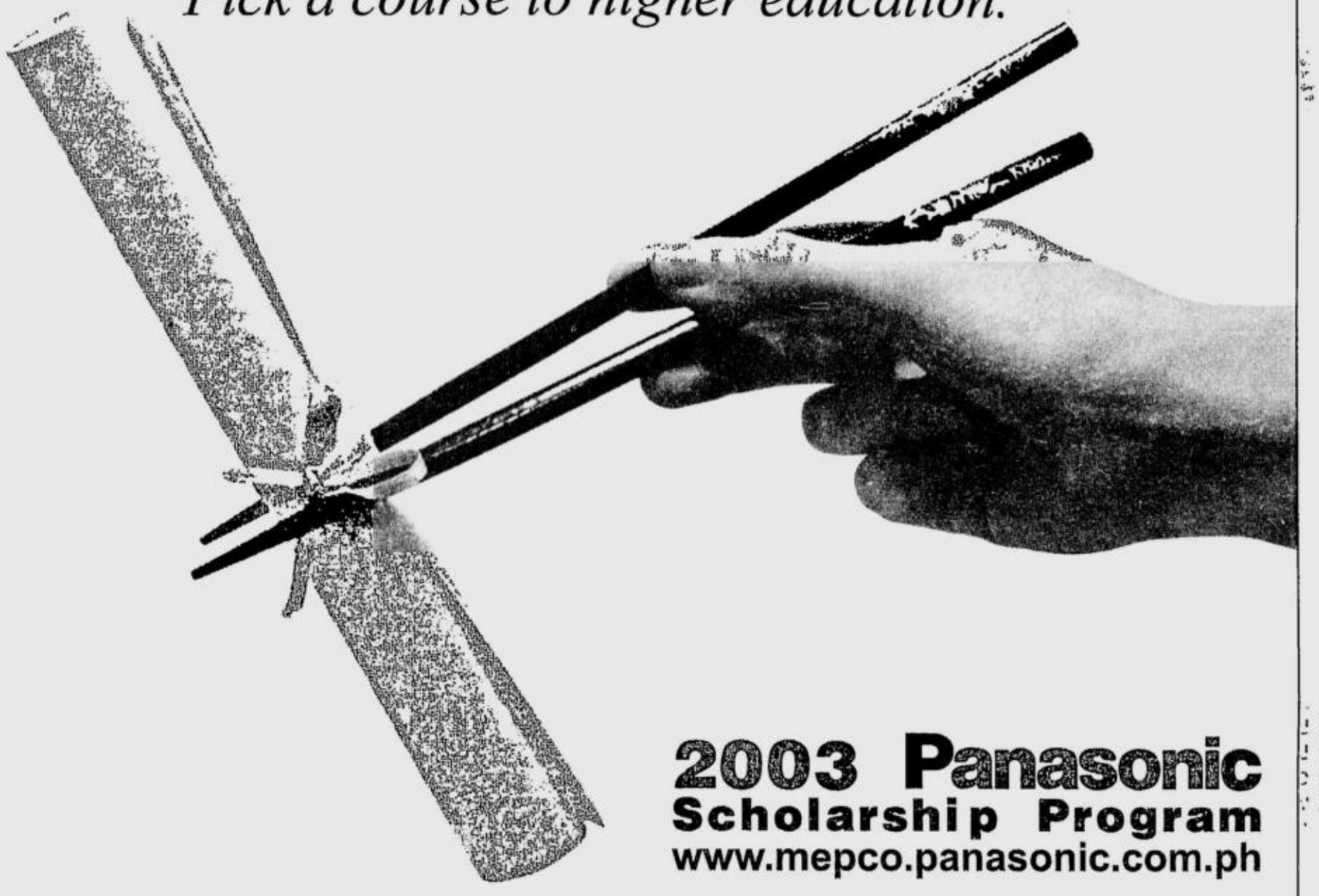

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Troops watch Edsa Shrine –and girls

(From page A1)

it here," he said.

But they can't have everything, of course. The soldiers are not allowed to venture inside the malls or get past their "area of perimeter," except when ordered to buy food or on another official business.

"We don't want to expose our presence to the civilians. We never know," another soldier, who refused to be identified, said.

Aside from the women, the soldiers indulge in another pastime—watching TV—and they're enjoying one of the soap operas.

"That's one thing we don't have in the mountain," another said. "We bring chess boards, magazines, anything. To tell you honestly, with all the beautiful women I'm seeing, I'm not bored," he said.

"But don't tell our commanders that," he added joking.

Still, some of the soldiers prefer to go to the chapel downstairs, not just because the place is air-conditioned but because "they want to reflect."

But they are ready and geared to the teeth, complete with truncheons and shields, "in case anything happens," and in worst cases, guns, but only "to intimidate" troublemakers.

For the past three days, protesters and militant groups had not approached the shrine, and the soldiers could only be thankful.

"We don't know how long we are going to stay here," said Sibayan. "But it is an honor enough to defend the country, to defend something so sacred and so meaningful as this," he said.

Mendiola protesters slam GMA 'betrayal'

(From page A1)

Edsa Shrine, the starting point of last year's march, because the Catholic Church would not let them get near the historic site.

Last year, Church leaders tried their best to convince the militants and other Edsa II participants not to leave the shrine and to cancel the march.

And like last year, the protesters were not able to get near Malacañang as a phalanx of policemen blocked their way at Mendiola.

Members of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Anakbayan, League of Filipino Students and the Pamalakaya also participated in the march.

The protesters pelted an effigy of the President with tomatoes and bashed it with their banners. The rally ended at around 4 p.m.

In Quezon City, just as Ms Macapagal was going around six poor communities in Metro Manila, residents along Kalayaan Avenue in Quezon City laid out a lunch of rice, dried fish and tomatoes.

They wanted to dramatize the administration's alleged failure to alleviate poverty a year after Edsa II.

The "poor man's lunch," organized by Sanlakas, was also aimed at mocking the President's eating with her bare hands with urban poor residents on Thursday.

"Like Erap, GMA now eats with her hands, thinking such photo-ops (photo opportunities) will soften the hearts of the poor whose stomachs are aching from hunger," Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said.

Noise barrage

The lunch was laid out on tables after the residents staged a noise barrage as part of Sanlakas' protest actions.

The group took part in the uprising that ousted President Joseph Estrada but had also called for the resignation of then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo and all other officials in the Estrada administration.

Ms Macapagal yesterday visited poor residents of Culiat, Quezon City; Kristong Hari at the National Government Center site in Quezon City; Payatas A in Quezon City, where she partook of a poor man's lunch; Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila; Napocor Village in Muntinlupa City; and, Welfareville in Mandaluyong City. *(See banner story on page A1)*

Fortaleza described Ms Macapagal's tour as a "cheap gimmick of a plastic President."

"GMA is forced to go to the urban poor communities for photo-ops and does not dare invite them to the Edsa Shrine for she knows nobody will come, except her few apologists from the co-opted civil society," Fortaleza said.

Copycat

"She is doing an Erap but she is just a second-rate trying hard copycat," he said.

Fortaleza said urban poor residents along Kalayaan Avenue participated in People Power II uprising.

"Yet today, they are saying nothing has changed and that there is nothing to celebrate because life has even worsened for the urban poor," Fortaleza said.

"The protest action is also meant to challenge the national and local governments to act on their demand for land, housing and livelihood," he said.

The protesters lined both sides of the avenue, just outside their homes, and banged empty pots and pans, which they said symbolized grinding poverty and hunger.

Their placards read: "*Walang pagkain* (No food)," "*Walang pabahay* (No housing)," "*Walang trabaho* (No work)," "*Walang serbisyo* (No services)" and "*Walang nagbago* (Nothing changed)."

In Negros Occidental, about 2,000 members of rival militant groups staged separate rallies in Bacolod City to protest what they called the President's betrayal of the spirit of People Power II.

The Sanlakas-Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino led about 1,500 protesters in front of the Fountain of Justice at City Hall.

An effigy of the President, dressed in an American flag, was displayed during a rally of about 500 Bayan members at the Welcome Rotunda near the Bacolod Public Plaza.

"We are not celebrating Edsa Dos. We are protesting the President's betrayal of what the people fought for," said Ariel Guides, Sanlakas spokesperson in Negros Occidental.

Several speakers during the Sanlakas rally slammed the President for her alleged failure to heed the call of workers for wage increases and her continued adherence to globalization at the expense of local business.

They also lambasted the President for her decision to allow American forces to join the war in Mindanao.

Romuel Santillan, Bayan Muna secretary general in Negros Occidental, said their gathering was not a celebration but a protest to remind Ms Macapagal that she had failed the people.

In Iloilo City, some 1,000 protesters led by Bayan staged a march and condemned the Macapagal administration for allowing US troops to take part in military operations against the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

After marching through the city's mains streets, the protesters, mainly farmers and slum dwellers, held a cultural program at the Rotary Amphitheater, the center of anti-Estrada protest actions last year.

"The deployment of a battalion of US combat troops in a 'joint war exercise' . . . is a US war of intervention in any language," said Siegfred Deduro, Bayan-Panay secretary general.

'Denial queen'

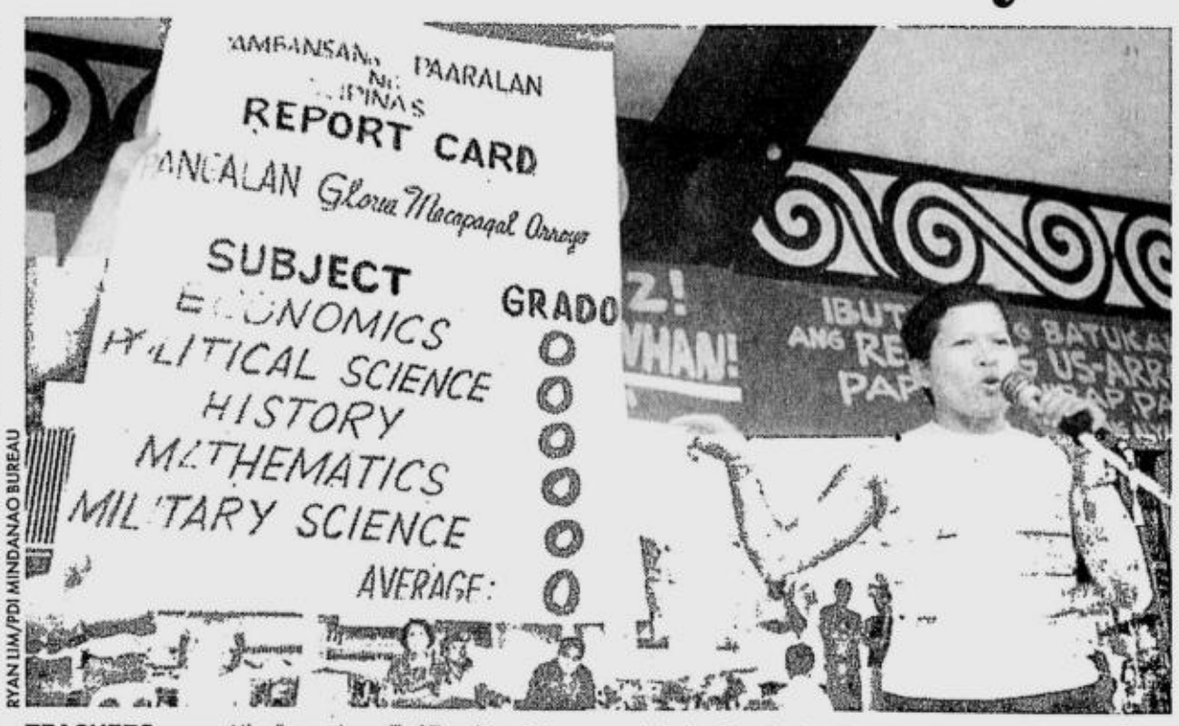
He said the President was "fast becoming a 'denial queen' by not admitting what is clearly a violation of the Constitution and even of the Visiting Forces Agreement."

Reacting to calls from several sectors that it was too early to criticize the administration, Deduro said: "GMA is making our country another Vietnam and some quarters are still asking us to give her a chance?"

In Davao City, a Bayan chapter described Ms Macapagal as the female version of her predecessor. They warned that if no changes happened in her administration she could also be thrown out of office.

"But unless there is no radical reform in her administration, Ms Macapagal can also be removed from office by the people," said Alvin Luque, secretary general of Bayan-Southern Mindanao.

Since Friday, militants have been staging protest rallies to show that they were not satisfied with the President's performance. ***With reports from Carla P. Gomez and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

TEACHERS present the "report card" of President Macapagal during Sunday's rally at the Rizal Park in Davao City.

MILITANTS throw rotten tomatoes at an effigy of President Macapagal at the Mendiola Bridge.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PBCOM

Philippine Bank of Communications

HEAD OFFICE : PBCOM Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue corner Herrera St.,1226 Makati City
Tel. No.: 830-7000

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of December 14, 2001

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items		P 340,397,223.39
Due from Bangko Sentral		2,479,605,834.44
Due from Other Banks		952,033,060.40
Interbank Loans Receivable		3,086,203,800.00
Trading Account Securities (Net)		461,443,972.28
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		4,479,732,178.14
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		16,659,636,939.87
Equity Investments (Net)		15,558,527.50
Bank Premises, Furniture Fixture & Equipment (Net)		1,884,829,744.38
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		4,777,199,093.52
Others		4,180,418,364.03
TOTAL ASSETS		P 39,317,058,737.95

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits		P 1,500,103,364.84
Savings Deposits		15,474,221,147.35
Time Deposits		11,326,069,607.38
Special/Other Deposits		9,809,352.60
Due to Bangko Sentral		40,976,513.13
Due to Banks		—
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		80,516,633.64
Bills Payable:		
CB - Rediscounts/Special Programs		—
Interbank Borrowings		2,332,471,939.70
Deposit Substitutes		5,395,693.27
Others		1,621,877,500.00
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		143,908,108.50
Other Liabilities		671,140,318.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES		P 33,206,490,178.43

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock		P 5,734,906,522.44
Surplus		310,196,894.66
Surplus Reserves		65,465,142.42
Other Capital Accounts		—
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		6,110,568,559.52
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		39,317,058,737.95

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		P 437,185,074.00
Bills for Collection		70,528,741.41
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		—
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		15,613,500.00
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		P 3,218,146,988.66
Invested in:		
Government Securities	713,149,134.17	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	27,121,312.16	
Loans and Discounts	1,435,891,620.97	
Other Assets	1,041,984,921.36	
Accountabilities:		
Trust and Other Fiduciary	1,024,535,483.17	
Common Trust Funds	449,119,909.47	
Investment/Funds Management	1,744,491,596.02	
Other Contingent Accounts		168,307,805.52
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		P 3,909,782,109.59

Other Information

1. Deposits of :		
a) Government		P 1,014,149.84
b) Banks		128,889,572.69
c) Trust Department		988,647,097.39

2. COMPLIANCE WITH MAGNA CARTA LAW:

Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises	2% for Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	171.56%	1,244.06%

3. Amount of non-performing loans	6,707,101,040.37
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio	29.58%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets	8,176,717,521.85
6. General provision for loans losses	283,305,686.94
7. Specific provision for loans losses	2,616,812,438.11
8. Return on Equity (ROE)	1.54%
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	374,878,587.15
10. Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	1.65%
11. Amount of past due DOSRI loans/advances	—
12. Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	—

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
City of Manila) S.S.

We, JOSE R. CHANYUNGCO and ISIDRO C. ALCANTARA, JR., of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) JOSE R. CHANYUNGCO
Controller

(Sgd.) ISIDRO C. ALCANTARA, JR.
President & Chief Executive Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of January at Manila, affiants exhibiting their Community Tax Certificate No. 02603746 issued at Marikina City on February 12, 2001 and Community Tax Certificate No. 05595987 issued at City of Manila on February 28, 2001 respectively.

(Sgd.) ANA THERESA B. DEL ROSARIO
Notary Public

Doc No. 305
Page No. 62
Book No. IV
Series of 2002

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Manila
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(From page A1)

"very similar" to the failed coup of July 1986, the so-called Manila Hotel coup attempt, for three reasons.

"Just like the May 1st uprising, it failed. Second, their leaders were not in the frontlines. Third, only one sector started it," he said.

Ramos said it was vital for the President to again secure the support of civil society and the business sector in the next 12 months, as she needed to strengthen democratic institutions to eliminate the need for uprisings like Edsa I in 1986 and Edsa II last year.

"We must make such future people power revolutions unnecessary," he said.

"We must put a stop, once and for all, to the periodic crises that corruption, extravagance, cronyism, irresponsibility and incompetence inflict on our national society," he said.

Not Edsa

Ramos recalled that those who participated in the May 1 uprising were left to fend for themselves by their leaders, the same ones who stirred them to action at the Edsa Shrine, after the Palace siege failed.

The situation was different in Edsa I and Edsa II, he said, because then the political and military leaders were with the people.

"The leaders were there with the troops," Ramos said.

Edsa I and I were also "popular People Power revolutions," he said, involving all sectors.

"And this is the most important: Edsa I and II succeeded (while May 1 did not)," he added.

In an unscheduled interview at the Edsa Shrine, the President tried to put Ramos' pronouncements into perspective.

"It doesn't mean that because he is advising, I'm not doing anything," Ms Macapagal said.

An economist by training, the President has taken pride in the economy's 3.7-percent growth last year, the taming of inflation, and the narrowing of the budget deficit.

In an interview with the Singapore Straits Times held in Manila the other day, Ramos had said Ms Macapagal should avoid committing the same mistakes as her ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

"In other words, don't take care of yourself ahead of others," Ramos had said.

"Well, that's good advice," the President replied. "An advice is different from a criticism," she added.

In a radio interview a few hours later, Ms Macapagal said Ramos had given a "correct advice" on what she must not do.

"I don't have any plans to do an Erap. It's a correct advice and we follow only correct ones," she said in Filipino.

Former Ramos aides had earlier criticized Ms Macapagal for already casting a moist eye on the 2004 presidential election. They pointed to her constant travels to rural and urban communities as early election campaigning.

Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general of the Council on Philippine Affairs, came to the President's defense when he joined her in yesterday's sorties to poor communities in Metro Manila.

"You have to distinguish her obligation to the people and her politics," Saycon said.

Ramos yesterday said the President's attempt to reach out to disadvantaged sectors should be seen as part of the healing process, and not as political gimmickry to boost her 2004 presidential bid.

No delay

Ramos said Ms Macapagal needed to fulfill "without further delay" the commitments she declared in her inaugural speech and in her first State of the Nation address.

The resumption of peace talks with Moro secessionist and communist groups was a good start, he added.

Ramos also belittled the seemingly endless round of coup rumors or the seeming disunity among Edsa II forces.

"No, no, no," he said.

"Why am I leaving for Oman at this time? (It's because) I'm not worried about anything," he said before boarding his flight at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Asked about the possibility of a coup being mounted against the President, he replied: "That's why I am leaving, because I'm not worried even about that."

He said he would be back for the next National Security Council meeting.

Asked about the rumored disenchantment of some military personnel and the possibility of another uprising, Ramos said, "I am the coup fighter expert in this country. I fought them nine times, so when I say don't worry, you better don't worry about it."

Between February 1986 and June 1992, when he was elected President, Ramos served as Armed Forces chief of staff and then as defense secretary.

Ramos said the Macapagal administration's urgent tasks could be classified into "four Cs." These include:

- Consolidation within government, Congress, the uniformed services, civil society and the grassroots citizenry.
- Continuity of reforms, meaning "modest gains started or gained in the previous administration must be built upon by the successor administration."
- Confidence and trust restoration and building in government and from the international community, so that investments from local and international capitalists would come in.
- Competitiveness, by making Filipino products and services more globally competitive through increased government support.

Ramos pointed to the blue tie he was wearing—made of indigenous woven materials—which, he said, could compete with international brand-name ties.

"I say this is one of the best, very cheap, affordable," he said. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

Pro-Erap groups mount rally

(From page A1)

assemble at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila and in front of the University of Sto. Tomas on España Avenue, also in Manila, between 12 noon and 1:30 p.m.

They would proceed to Mendiola where anti-riot police are expected to prevent them from getting close to Malacañang.

Last night's demonstration in front of the VMMC was generally peaceful as the pro-Estrada crowd took positions three lanes away from the hospital's North Avenue gate, which was guarded by scores of anti-riot police.

Several kilometers away, a resident of Payatas pledged her loyalty to Estrada as President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the urban poor community.

"*Erap pa rin kami* (We're still for Erap)!" said a 49-year-old mother in Lupang Pangako A in Payatas.

Speaking amid the din of loudspeakers from a stage nearby where Ms Macapagal and her officials staged a program, the mother of three said Estrada had touched their hearts.

"We felt Estrada's love. As a mayor of San Juan, senator, vice president, and finally president, he regularly visited us," said the woman, who decided not to give her name.

One year after assuming office following the ouster of Estrada, Ms Macapagal has yet to fully win over the poor who have overwhelmingly voted for the former movie actor in 1998.

"She's visiting us only now," the mother said of Ms Macapagal in Filipino. "Will she promise us something?"

Asked how Estrada was of any help to them, she said without hesitation: "Financial."

Pressed if she would support Ms Macapagal once the government awarded her a home lot, the woman said: "Maybe a little."

A hundred meters away, the President said her administration was putting up a "one-stop shop" to take care of the needs of the poor.

The dusty road leading to the stage was lined up by policemen in anti-riot helmets.

Crony capitalism hounds Asian economies

(From page A1)

links between the two," Edmund Terence Gomez, a Malaysian associate professor, told the conference at the weekend.

With the emergence of democracy, "the state is increasingly being captured by capital" which influences the outcome of elections, Gomez said.

He said this was one of the major factors fueling crony capitalism in Southeast Asia.

"Since political contests are being extremely influenced by access to money, this brings into question the quality of democracy that is emerging in the region," Gomez said.

In Malaysia, for instance, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's powerful United Malays National Organization exerts an "overwhelming influence" over the corporate sector.

Mahathir "protects" well-connected businessmen, Gomez said. "Malaysian capital remains very subservient to the government."

Indonesia

In Indonesia, "the downfall of the Suharto regime does not mean the end of cronyism," Benny Subianto, an Indonesian visiting research fellow at the University of the Philippines, told the conference.

He said crony capitalism under President Megawati had been "decentralized," unlike during Suharto's 32-year authoritarian rule when he and a few of his confidants "were able to control and centralized the intact lucrative resources in their hands."

Megawati came under fire last month for appointing her husband—businessman and legislator Taufik Kiemas—as head of a ministerial visit to China last month, even though there was an alleged conflict of interest.

In the Philippines, Mike Arroyo, husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo, led a list of "people you love to hate" in a recent issue of the Newsbreak weekly magazine, "given persistent and vivid accounts of him putting up a shadow Cabinet and supposedly dipping his hands in big questionable business deals."

Arroyo has denied the reports. His wife was swept to power a year ago after a popular military-led revolt ousted her corruption-tainted predecessor Joseph Estrada.

"Her administration has been smeared by various scandals that reek of crony capitalism mainly through the questionable activities of her husband," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said in his opening remarks at the conference.

"Incidentally, some of the crony capitalists who are still highly visible in the unabashed game of currying favor with the President are old faces who have managed to survive transitions of power," Pimentel said.

Thailand

In Thailand, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is said to be the clearest reflection of the intimate links between money and politics in the region.

The billionaire businessman-turned-politician was swept to power a year ago with the biggest majority ever achieved in Thai polls but seven months later narrowly got off the hook on charges of concealing part of his enormous fortune.

Ukrist Pathmanand, assistant director of the Institute of Asian Studies in Thailand's Chulalongkorn University, said it would be difficult to pursue political reforms and anti-graft measures under Thaksin.

"Such policies would result in curtailing the strong economic and political power base he and his friends enjoy—something which is at this point quite improbable," he said. *AFP*

Estrada cash gift ends up in charity

(From page A1)

Estrada had it rebuilt in two months after soliciting donations from the private sector.

The foundation's president, Elenita Nolasco, led the orphans in receiving the amount from the INQUIRER.

"We thank him with all our hearts," said Nolasco of Estrada, who, in the presence of some supporters, gave the money to the INQUIRER during an interview on Thursday afternoon.

Nolasco also wished that the orphanage's biggest benefactor get a "fair and speedy trial." Estrada, who is detained at the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center (VMCC) in Quezon City, has been charged with plunder for allegedly amassing billion of pesos while in office.

On Saturday night, the INQUIRER also gave P10,000 to Barangay No. 275, Zone 25, Parola in Binondo, Manila—a depressed community known as one of Estrada's bailiwicks.

Receiving the amount was the village chair, Justo V. de la Cruz.

The INQUIRER has set aside the remaining P10,000 for the treatment of 5-month-old Desiree Anne Advincula, who was born with a brain ailment called hydrocephalus.

Currently jobless, the baby girl's parents Dennis and Maritess Advincula of Panay, Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur, wrote the INQUIRER appealing to readers for financial support, on the day the paper received the P50,000 from Estrada at his detention suite in the VMCC.

The P10,000 for Desiree is to be deposited in the Metrobank account of the St. Dominic Parish in Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur.

The baby has been referred for treatment to the Lorma General Hospital in San Fernando City.

Readers who wish to extend further help to Desiree may contact Marge Tadeja Cruz at 0919-5325392 or at e-mail address mtbmug@yahoo.com.

Chavit sings Erap tune

(From page A1)

for the legalization of the numbers racket.

Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said the government would never be able to stamp out the popular numbers game.

So it might as well take over the lucrative racket from illegal gambling lords by legalizing it, he said.

The man, whose "Juetengate" exposé sparked the events leading to People Power II, couldn't have chosen a more appropriate time and place to air his proposal.

"From Marcos to Cory to Ramos to Estrada to GMA, nothing has changed. The only difference is that it (jueteng) was well protected during Estrada's time," Singson told reporters at the Edsa Shrine where he hobnobbed with President Macapagal-Arroyo, as well as former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos.

They were among the select few invited to attend the Mass commemorating the first anniversary of Estrada's downfall and Ms Macapagal's rise to power.

Singson's proposal seemed strikingly similar in many aspects to "Bingo 2-Ball," Estrada's legalized version of jueteng.

But Singson insisted his proposal was different. Under his plan, he said, the "legal government" would be in charge and "not just one person."

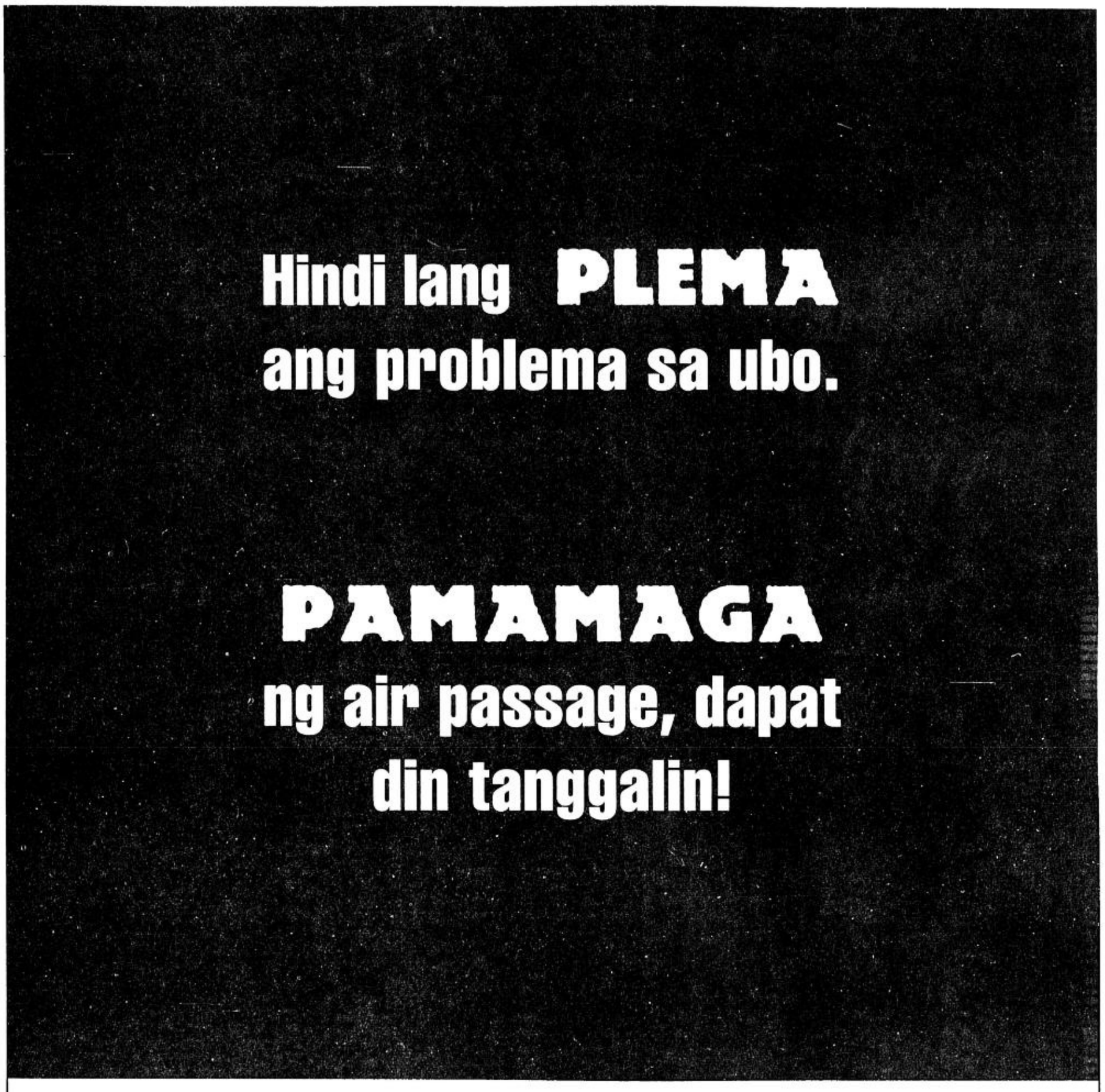
Under Bingo 2-Ball, he said, Charlie "Atong" Ang was allowed to run its operations on condition that he deliver P1.5 billion a month to Estrada in Malacañang.

"That's worse than jueteng being illegal because everything was concentrated on one person," said Singson who was left out of the Bingo 2-Ball action, one of the reasons that prompted him to squeal on Estrada's and Ang's racket.

Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Estrada's national police chief, earlier said jueteng continued to flourish under the Macapagal administration and that Singson was now in control of the racket nationwide. Singson denied the charge.

In his talk with reporters, Singson also expressed disappointment over the pace of Estrada's plunder trial, saying the government was being distracted from its many problems.

"The administration should work to hasten decision because it affects our economy. We will never be at peace until Estrada is convicted," he said.



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Tadano TR 250M Crane
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Isuzu 10W Dump Trucks
2 of 50 Dump Trucks
Isuzu 10W Dropsides
Isuzu Elf Dropside Single Tire
1 of 120 2-Ton Cargo
2 of 50 10W CARGO
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2 of 30 2-Ton Aluminum Van
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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Eagles whip Bears, 33-19

CHICAGO—Donovan McNabb threw for two touchdowns and ran for a third Saturday as the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Chicago Bears 33-19 to advance to the NFC championship game. The Eagles will face the winner of Sunday's Green Bay-St. Louis game in the conference championship. *AP*

P9.5-M DEMAND

Omanzie won't get wish

BY DENNIS U. EROA

DEFENSIVE specialist Omanzie Rodriguez, third pick overall in the 2002 PBA draft, won't get his wish of a residential lot from Sta. Lucia Realty, even as top draft pick Yancy de Ocampo and amateur basketball player of the year Ren Ren Ritualo have not yet started negotiations with newcomer FedEx.

Contrary to reports (not in the INQUIRER), the 6-foot-6 Rodriguez, a certified star of Andok's San Juan in the MBA, and fellow Sta. Lucia draftee Chito Victolero have not yet signed multi-million deals with the Realtors.

"We're still talking," said Ed Fonceja, who represents Rodriguez and Victolero. Fonceja said that Rodriguez has already accepted that they cannot get the 1,000 sq-m lot request from Sta. Lucia, but can buy land at employee's price.

Fonceja said he is looking at a three-year pact not less than P9.5M for Omanzie and P4M for Victolero. Sta. Lucia is offering P9M.

"Remember that Omanzie is number 3 in the draft," Fonceja said. Homer Se, the 5th pick overall, signed a P9M three-year pact.

While the Realtors, who badly need a big man in the coming PBA Commissioner's Cup to fill up the shoes of national training pool members Dennis Espino and Marlou Aquino, have already made their formal offer to their draftees, FedEx is still not making its move.

"Nothing," the 6-foot-8 De Ocampo replied when asked to give an update on his stint with FedEx.

Like De Ocampo, Ritualo is still waiting for FedEx's offersheet. "We're in the dark at the moment. I really want to know what FedEx can offer so that we can have talking points. The wait is terrible and I'm a little frustrated,"said Baby Ritualo, Ren-Ren's mother and adviser.

The elder Ritualo, who took a break from her job as an administrative assistant at K-Mart in Greensboro, North Carolina, said she wants to start and finish negotiations before flying back to the US.

"I'm in danger of losing my job already because I've already postponed my return," Ritualo, a former UE professor said. Yancy and Ren Ren are playing for Welcoat Paints in the ongoing PBL Challenge Cup.

INQUIRER sources said that FedEx is unable to tender offersheets because it is still straightening the stint of some players, notably Noli Locsin and Rene Hawkins. FedEx bigwigs have said that De Ocampo and Ritualo will serve as the cornerstone of its campaign.

Jordan, Wizards frustrate Bulls

CHICAGO—Michael Jordan had a career-high nine turnovers, was just 7-of-21 from the floor for 16 points, had 12 rebounds, four assists, two steals and two blocks as the Washington Wizards beat the Chicago Bulls 77-69 Saturday in Jordan's return to his old home.

"I almost feel guilty playing against them," said Jordan, who was given a warm ovation that filled his eyes with tears.

Jordan won six NBA titles while playing with the Bulls.

Chicago threatened the NBA record for lowest field-goal percentage. The Bulls shot just 24.7 percent, just shy of the NBA low of 22.9 shot by Milwaukee against Minneapolis on Nov. 6, 1954.

Chris Whitney led Washington with 20 points while Ron Artest and Ron Mercer scored 14 points each for Chicago.

Lakers 98, Spurs 81

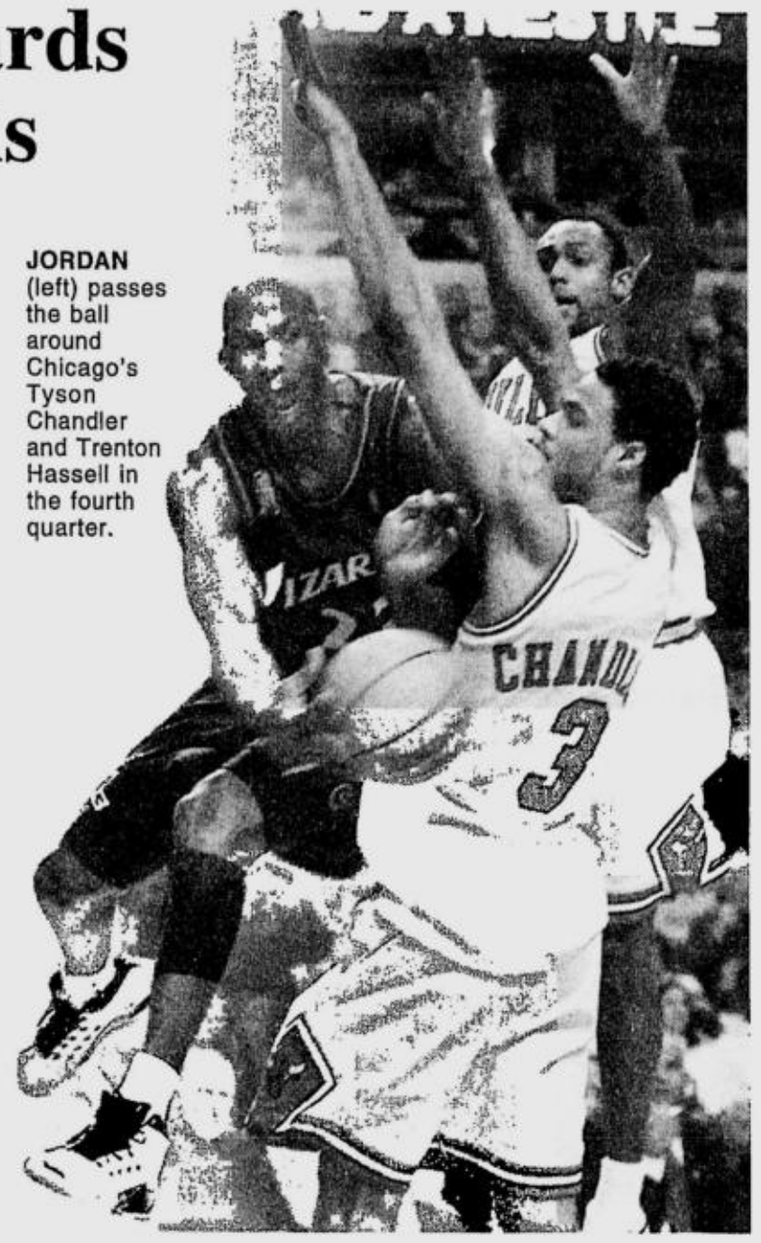
In San Antonio, Kobe Bryant scored 17 of his 28 points in the second half to lead the Shaq-less Los Angeles Lakers over the San Antonio Spurs.

76ers 97, Knicks 89

In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson scored 34 points and Dikembe Mutombo added a season-high 24 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as Philadelphia extended New York's losing streak to seven games.

Complete Results:

L.A. Lakers 98, San Antonio 81; Washington 77, Chicago 69; Milwaukee 116, Atlanta 107; Philadelphia 97, New York 89; Toronto 91, Charlotte 89; New Jersey 99, Houston 90; Detroit 94, Boston 91; Orlando 119, Memphis 103; Miami 100, Indiana 88; Dallas 106, Utah 103; Seattle 104, Denver 77; Portland 113, L.A. Clippers 93; Minnesota 105, Golden State 102. *AP*



JORDAN (left) passes the ball around Chicago's Tyson Chandler and Trenton Hassell in the fourth quarter.

Top picks out

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

THE ROSTERS for the Rookie Team and the Sophomore Team in the 2002 Rookie Challenge to be held at Philadelphia's First Union Center on Feb. 9 (Feb. 10, Manila time) as part of the NBA All-Star Saturday program have been finalized. However, nowhere are the names of three of the top four picks in last June's NBA draft listed in the Rookies lineup.

That's hardly surprising since Washington's Kwame Brown (No. 1 draftee overall, 3.2 ppg, 3.0 rpg) and Chicago's Tyson Chandler (No. 2, 4.3 ppg, 3.2 rpg) and Eddy Curry (No. 4, 3.5 ppg, 2.1 rpg)—all of whom did not have any collegiate experience—have been a disappointment in limited playing time with their respective teams.

The Rookie Challenge, which pits this year's top rookies against the league's best second-year players for the third consecutive year, is expected to be a run-and-gun affair. The game will be played in two 20-minutes halves. In case of a time at the end of regulation, there will be a two-minute overtime to determine the winner.

Comprising this year's Rookie Team, which will be coached by Chuck Daly (who will be assisted by Darryl Dawkins on the bench), are Memphis forward Shane Battier (6-8, No. 6 overall in the 2001 draft), Memphis forward Pau Gasol (7-0, No. 3), Washington center Brendan Haywood (7-0, No. 20), Boston guard Joe Johnson (6-7, No. 10), Utah forward Andrei Kfrilenko (6-9, No. 24 in the 1999 draft), San Antonio guard tony Parker (6-2, No. 28), Detroit center Zeljko Rebraca (7-0, No. 54—second round in the 1994 draft), Golden State guard Jason Richardson (6-6, No. 5) and Indiana guard Jamaal Tinsley (6-3, No. 27).

Enriquez, Bello rule execs race

THE 18TH Runnex-Pharmaton Executive Classic race was held recently at the UP Diliman campus, with Wilfredo Enriquez and Ma. Lourdes Bello emerging as top winners.

Enriquez is an electrical engineer of the Quezon City Fire department, while Bello works as a broadcaster. Sponsoring the event were Pharmaton Capsules and Republic Flour Mills.

Results:

10K male: 1. Wilfredo Enriquez (00:39:15), 2. William Garcia (39:55.3), 3. Valentino Delos Reyes (40:04).

10K female: 1. Ma. Lourdes Bello (00:54:57), 2. Marissa Rivera (55:39), 3. Angie Villalobos (01:55), 4) Imelda Tan (1:09:54).

5K male: 1. Harry Caldwell (00:19:46), 2. Gregory Tack (20:49), 3) Pablo Cay (21:38), 4) German Ambassador Herbert Jess (30:23).

5K female: 1. Margie Rafetto (00:27:49), 2. Mariam Bismonte Cruz (27:58), 3. May Bonalos (00:29:47).

Rival tennis groups lament POC inaction

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

FOR the first time since the tennis leadership controversy broke out, Philippine Tennis Association president Buddy Andrada and his rival group, led by Children's Tennis Workshop president Jovy Mamawal, are singing the same tune.

They are requesting the Philippine Olympic Committee to intervene in their ongoing rift which threatens to dampen the country's chances in the coming Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

Andrada criticized the POC for its "slow action and indecisiveness" in dealing with the tennis issue even as Mamawal expressed frustrations when their persistent call for POC monitors fell into deaf ears.

POC president Celso Dayrit would not answer voice calls and text messages when the INQUIRER tried to reach him.

The POC has been playing "wait-and-see" over the tennis issue especially after Dayrit broke off with his long-time ally Andrada, who is also reportedly contemplating on resigning from the POC executive council.

Mamawal's camp first asked the POC to observe the opening of certificate of elections for the regional vice presidential polls last Jan. 5. The POC didn't heed the call, prompting the breakaway group not to submit its certificate of elections.

It's Corteza vs Kiamco for title

LEE Van Corteza quashed a late charge by Antonio Lining to score a 13-8 victory Saturday night and arrange a winner take-all final against first round winner Warren Kiamco in the P200,000 Barcelona Battle of Golf Medalists 9-Ball Challenge at the Robinsons's Galleria in Ortigas.

The 22-year-old Corteza played underdog against Lining in the event sponsored by Barcelona Brandy de España, Robinson's Mall and produced by the National Broadcasting Network.

But the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games 8-Ball champion amazed the crowd as he got off to a 10-2 start and made it 12-4 after cashing in on his numerous winner's break.

Even NBN chairperson Mia Concio and PBL chair Dioceldo Sy, who were among the thrilled spectators, became instant fans of Corteza who is tagged as the "Future of Philippine Billiards."

With the win, Corteza forged a showdown with Kiamco for the title and the P100,000 grand prize on Jan. 26 at the Robinson's Place in Malate. The match will be telecast live over NBN-4.

JET SKI MEET

Ace Filipino jetskiers landed decent finishes in the recent King's Cup Jet Ski Championships in Thailand. Caltex-Revtex rider Wacky "The Superwoman" del Rosario (second from left) flashes the thumbs-up sign as she receives the second place trophy in the prestigious annual event. Brother Paul del Rosario, the 2000 Petron Jet Ski Rider of the Year, ended ninth overall in the 14-man field.

Araneta cagers sparkle

GAMES TODAY:
(Rizal Coliseum)
1 p.m.—JRU vs RTU
2:30 p.m.—MIT vs LPC
4 p.m.—SSC vs AMACC
5:30 p.m.—SBC vs Trinity

GREGORIO Araneta University Foundation bested Jose Rizal University, 68-61, yesterday to stay in contention for a quarterfinals berth in the National Capital Region eliminations for the National Students Basketball Championships at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

GAUF improved to 1-1 in group A of the senior division, trailing sure qualifier UST, which holds a 3-0 slate. JRU, missing its star players Nani Epondulan and Ariel Capus, suffered its second straight defeat.

Ron Mendoza led GAUF with 19 points while eight others drilled in two points or more.

College of St. Benilde leads Group B with a 2-0 card, followed by Adamson at 1-0. Philippine School of Business Administration is also assured of a quarterfinals slot in Group C at 3-0, with San Beda College right behind at 2-0. San Sebastian College and Amacu-QC are tied in Group D, both with 1-0 slates.

In the junior division, Mapua and St. Claire are tied for the group A lead at 1-0, while Philippine College of Criminology is on top of group B at 1-0.

Hingis waiting

MELBOURNE—Venus Williams and Monica Seles, with 14 Grand Slam titles between them, set up an Australian Open quarterfinal showdown Sunday after breezing through their fourth round matches.

Waiting in the semifinals is likely to be three-time champion Martina Hingis who stormed into the last eight with a 44 minute 6-1, 6-0 demolition of South African veteran Amanda Coetzer.

Hingis will next play unheralded Italian Adrian Serra Zanetti who has never been this far before. She ousted Slovakia's Martina Sucha 6-1, 7-5. *AFP*

Haas up by 1

LA QUINTA, California—Jay Haas, the Bob Hope Desert Classic champion 14 years ago, shot a 9-under 63, good for a one-shot lead over Kenny Perry and Cameron Beckman.

Haas knocked an 8-iron out of a divot in the rough and into the hole from 150 yards (137 meters) out for an eagle to begin his round Saturday. *AP*

Alabang's Mango Tee sets trend for member-guest tilts

HAVING blazed the trail for member-guest tournaments in the country, the Mango Tee of the Alabang Country Club unfurls its 18th edition on Feb. 7-10 with its full-packed player and sponsorship registry a proof to its wide popularity.

The more than 200 team slots were filled up as early as a month before tee-off and Mango Tee committee members headed by Larry Jalbuena are upbeat over the deluge in sponsorships reinforcing the full support of major backer Smart Communications.

No less than P2 million worth of prizes will be given away on and off the course topped by a Mitsubishi Lancer GSR with Invecs Sports Mode automatic and Mitsubishi Adventure Super Sport Bas manual for players who score aces.

With the entry of Taylor-Made Adidas and full cooperation of Makati Skyline, the awards rites on Feb. 10 loom to be a party like no other as Spirit of 67 band is set to get the crowd swinging all night.

Jalbuena and committee members Jun Galindez, Dindo Ibazeta, Rene Garovillo, Rolly Castro, Freddie Oliveros and Babes Guilatco are working feverishly to ensure that the participants will not be disappointed.

Alabang president Francis Jimenez, chair Farley Ampil and the rest of the Alabang board are keeping themselves in constant touch with the organizing group as the much-awaited week nears.

So Natural, Shell, The Pearl Manila, Auto Magic, Gainers Marketing and Outback have joined the sponsors' list that includes FedEx, Malayan Insurance, Bangko Sentral, GG&A, Green Cross, Cocolife/Direct Link, Jomon Carpet, Citra Tollways, Friends of Mango Tee, Supreme Construction, Nestle, The Turf Co., Golforce, Joseph Rice Mill, Directories Phils., YKK Zipper Phils., Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance, Sharexchange Brokers, Hadji Andi Tabusalla, Acro Industrial, Security Bank, Standard Chartered, Golfers Clubshares, T&C Construction, Maisog Eng'g and Mori-Mori Restaurant.

So the public may know

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THERE ARE only two dancesport bodies recognized officially in the Philippines; the amateur Dance Sport Council of the Philippines headed by Becky Garcia and the professional organization,t he Professional Dance Teachers' Association of the Philippines, a DSCP affiliate, headed by Cynthia Mamon.

Founded six years ago, the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines is the dancesport group recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee, the ruling body for amateur sports in the country. In turn, the DSCP supervises the Professional Dance Teachers' Association of the Philippines, a member of the London-based World Dance and Dancesport Council, the governing body for pro dance. Therefore, all dancesport activities in the Philippines must carry the approval and/or blessing of the DSCP before they are accredited and legitimized. Without DSCP approval, any and all activities are unauthorized.

Thus, the council is warning the public to be wary of another group which is out to sabotage the fledgling dancesport industry by claiming it is the legitimate organization for dance in the Philippines.

"This is false," said Becky Garcia, who has been president of the council since six years ago. "They just want to take over our legitimate group by brainwashing several local dancers whom they were able to get to their side for the simple reason that these dancers can" win against our dance athletes."

'Conquer' prevails

FAVORITE Conquer D Sun edged Security Risk and Bidang Bida to win the Sun God Stakes yesterday at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

The three-year-old bay colt sired by Conquistarose out of Rising Sun is owned and bred by lawyer Jose Ferdinand "Joy" Rojas.

Conquer D Sun was ridden by veteran Jose Macaraig and is trained by his father Juanito, himself a former star jockey.

Yesterday's victory was worth P240,000.

Palasan, PNP win arnis meet

THE PALASAN Arnis Club of Valenzuela emerged as overall champion, while the Philippine National Police arnis team landed second in the recent National Arnis Tournament held at the Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Teams from Mindanao (Tacurong City) and Region V also took home gold medals in the 14 weight divisions.

Arnis Philippine (ARPI), an affiliate of the Philippine Olympic Committee, spearheaded the successful event.

"Arnis enthusiasts can expect a lot more of tournaments and activities as ARPI vows to further develop arnis, which is the country's unique martial arts," ARPI president Raymond Velayo said.

For more information, interested parties may contact the ARPI national secretariat at tel Nos. 725-4859 and 724-2358 through board directors Jonjon Lota and Dewey Sahagun.

Slasher kicks off

THE FOREIGN-FLAVORED World Slasher 8-Cock Derby, the year's biggest cockfighting event, kicks off this afternoon at the Araneta Coliseum before an expected overflow crowd.

Two cock elimination fights will be held today followed by another two-cock matches on Wednesday, Jan. 23 and the four-cock finals on Friday, Jan. 25.

Co, Bagumbayan shine

BAGUIO—Former basketball star Atoy Co bagged the overall individual plum while Bagumbayan I took team honors in the 16th edition of the recent northern leg of the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) tournament series in two venues here.

Co, carrying the banner of Pasig I, upstaged the low handicappers with his 36-hole total of 84 points for the top individual award in the tourney which drew 298 players from 28 different clubs from all over Luzon.

Bagumbayan drew a big game from Sevie Oliva on the way to winning the top team award in the event which was sponsored by Taylor Made Adidas, General Nutrition Center, Menzi&Company, Merisant Phils. Inc., Classica Suites Inc., San Miguel Corp., Sherwood Hills Golf and Country Club and Ultra Promo Craft

Angeles Centro took the Founders division, while Cabanatuan Mother Club won the Governors division.

Luna in

FIL-American Rhey Luna made it to the Davidoff Tour on his first try even as veterans Cassius Casas and Mars Pucay regained their cards after the qualifying tournament recently in Malacca, Malaysia.

Luna, a veteran national team member who is based in California, needed a big round of even-par 72 to earn a share of last seven slots out of the 40 disputed in the nerve-wracking final stage.

Jong Arcano

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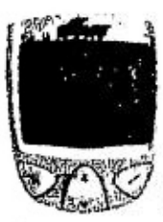

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

PAINTED ON PARADE
High school girls in costume and body paint take part in Caracol 2002, Makati City's version of Mardi Gras. The city's streets bloomed with color and music as students from different schools participated in a grand parade.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Doctors to check Korina's ex-maid for head injuries

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A PERSISTENT headache has prompted Bernardita Inocencio, 42, the maid who accused newsreader Korina Sanchez and her reported boyfriend Paul O. Aquino of beating her up in December, to undergo another medical examination today.

Inocencio will have a CT scan this afternoon at the Quirino General Hospital to determine if she has an injury in the back of the head that could be causing the head pains, said her lawyer, Melanio "Batas" Mauricio.

If the test yields a positive result, Mauricio and Inocencio would upgrade the physical injury charges they filed earlier against Sanchez and Aquino to attempted or frustrated homicide, the lawyer said.

Inocencio had filed a separate complaint against Sanchez before the Pasig prosecutor's office after the broadcaster allegedly failed to remit her contributions to the Social Security System. The preliminary investigation is scheduled for this afternoon.

Last Friday, doctors at the Quirino Hospital in Quezon City said they found a "defect" in the posterior area of Inocencio's head, which could have been causing her pain, said Mauricio.

Doctors at the Ospital ng Makati failed to detect the injury when they conducted a medical test on Inocencio right after she was allegedly beaten up by Sanchez and Aquino in Aquino's Makati residence a few days before Christmas.

Quoting doctors from the hospital, Mauricio said the test showed that Inocencio's injuries were superficial and would heal in eight to nine days. This was among the basis of the physical injury charge that Inocencio filed against Sanchez and Aquino before the Makati City prosecutor's office.

SANCHEZ

This afternoon, Sanchez and her accuser are expected to meet face to

DOCTORS/ A21

'I was not aware of any embargo'

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN AND ALCUIN PAPA

A MALACAÑANG "news embargo" was broken again when broadcaster Korina Sanchez aired a portion of what she claimed was her "exclusive" interview with President Macapagal-Arroyo in last Friday's telecast of "TV Patrol."

The interview was supposed to be aired only on Saturday morning and Sanchez's "exclusive interview" with the President on Friday afternoon was in fact a taping for Ms Macapagal's "May Gloria Ang Bukas Mo," which airs on Saturday at 8 a.m. over the ABS-CBN News Channel, government stations NBN-4 and IBC-13, and selected radio stations.

But Sanchez on Saturday said she had nothing to do with the decision to air Ms Macapagal's statement on the news program ahead of everybody else covering the Palace beat.

"There was a request made for me to do the story and that's what I did," Sanchez said. "If (TV) Patrol wanted to use the story, it's beyond me. I don't have a say in that. I am not Patrol and I don't own Patrol."

The outspoken broadcaster said airing the statements that the President made during a taping on Friday of "May Gloria Pa Ang Bukas Mo" was a decision made between producers of the show and of TV Patrol. She also pointed out that the show is "partly funded by ABS-CBN network."

She denied knowledge of the embargo. "I was not aware of any embargo. There is no such thing as an embargo as far as I'm concerned."

I WAS NOT/ A21

'Marikina will be our Singapore'

BY NELSON F. FLORES

ONE BILLION pesos is the income target for this year of Marikina City Mayor Maria Lourdes Fernando, who envisions development in a grand scale and self-sufficiency by year 2004 for this once backward city in eastern Metro Manila.

In her recent State of the City Address, the New York-trained business manager said her administration would undertake every effort to transform what was known as the country's "shoe capital" into the little Singapore of the metropolis.

Fernando said she chose Lee Kuan Yew's island-state as a model for development because of its "discipline, self sufficiency, effective system of governance, work ethics, environmental soundness, economic dynamism and clean government."

She also sees a transformation of Marikina into a "place for living, work and business, history, socializing, entertainment, arts, culture, tourism and sports; education and religion."

In this transformation, the target P1-billion income for this year would come in handy. Fernando said her main source of the P1 billion that would finance the city government's program toward her ambitious vision would be taxes, whose collection she stressed must be effective.

"One billion is a staggering figure but we ought to set a goal however ambitious it may seem, to get everyone to work hard and work well," she said. "But we will not rely solely on the taxes collected by the city government."

She said the city government would explore other sources of funds, including, but not limited, to local and international grants.

"SHOE LADY" Fernando vows to revive her city as the country's "shoe capital." JOAN BONDOC

Accomplishments

As proof of her claims, Fernando revealed the city government's close working relationship with the members of Congress and the Supreme Court netted her administration P70 million last year for various infrastructure projects.

Citing the city government's accomplishment in achieving her administration's goals, Fernando said that more than 10,000 trees were planted all over the city, constant massive repair and maintenance of the city's road networks were undertaken, and a comprehensive land use and zoning schemes implemented.

All this was accomplished in the past year, she said. She added that the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority presented and approved the city's zoning program.

Flood control is another major concern of the Fernando administration. She said the upgrading of the drainage system and the concreting of the city's road network would be accomplished by the end of the year. A road dike would also be built in the low-lying areas of Barangay Sto. Niño and Nangka to ease flooding.

The World Bank has financed bicycle lanes, which will also be completed, Fernando said. She vowed the city administration's tirelessly lobbying of the Department of Public Works and Highways for the construction of a new Tumana River all weather bridge that would connect Marikina and Quezon City.

MARIKINA/ A22

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2 ZOOLANDER in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 BLACK HAWK DOWN (Advance Screening) in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 BEHIND ENEMY LINES in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 BLACK HAWK DOWN (Advance Screening) in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 AMERICAN ADOBO in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 ZOOLANDER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 AMERICAN ADOBO in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 GOLD (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
6 GOLD (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
8	AMERICAN ADOBO
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	BURLESK KING

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1	RESERVE
2	BURLESK KING
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	PANINDA
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
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2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

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2	BURLESK KING
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	BUKO PANDAN

METROPOLIS str
Tel. 850 4285

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BUKO PANDAN
5	BURLESK KING
6	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TATARIN
2	SPY GAMES

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1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Spring
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1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
A	BUKO PANDAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	BUKO PANDAN
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	ZOOLANDER
5	BURLESK KING
6	AMERICAN ADOBO
7 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BUKO PANDAN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BURLESK KING
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DRAGON
5	HUBOG
6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	BAGONG BUWAN
9	ZOOLANDER

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4	ZOOLANDER
5 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	BURLESK KING
7 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	HUBOG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BUKO PANDAN
5 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Universal
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1	BURLESK KING

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BURLESK KING

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

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Mandaluyong MARKETPLACE
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1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BURLESK KING
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	BURLESK KING

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4	BURLESK KING
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	

Berma
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2	BUKO PANDAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BURLESK KING

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BURLESK KING
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BURLESK KING
2 (DTS)	AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	ZOOLANDER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2 (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BURLESK KING

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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1	HUBOG
2	MUSKETEERS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
(Tarlac)

1	BURLESK KING
2	WALANG IWANAN
3 (DOLBY)	THE SCORE
4 (DTS)	SPY GAMES

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BURLESK KING
4 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BURLESK KING
5	GIRL FEVER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ZOOLANDER
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2556

1	ZOOLANDER
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	WALANG IWANAN
2	HUBOG
3	2 PISNGI NG LANGIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

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2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4008

1 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SAPAGKAT KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	WALANG IWANAN
3	BURLESK KING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	WALANG IWANAN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
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3	LORD OF THE RING
4	SPY GAMES
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	ZOOLANDER
7	GLASS HOUSE
8	ON THE LINE
9	BUKO PANDAN
10	BURLESK KING

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BURLESK KING
4	SPY GAMES
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
7	ZOOLANDER

METRO EAST 632-9115-16 / 633-7541

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	SPY GAMES
6	BUKO PANDAN
7	ZOOLANDER
8	BURLESK KING

NOVALICHES 935-3229 to 31

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	ZOOLANDER
5	SPY GAMES
6	BURLESK KING
7	BUKO PANDAN
8	AMERICAN ADOBO

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	ZOOLANDER
3	AMERICAN ADOBO
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	BURLESK KING
6	BUKO PANDAN

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5	SUSMARYOSEP (4 FATHERS)
6	WOLF GIRL

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1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	WOLF GIRL
3	SAPAGKAT KAMI'Y TAO
4	ON THE LINE
5	2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
6	MUSKETEERS

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BURLESK KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	AMERICAN ADOBO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ZOOLANDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BAGONG BUWAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SPY GAME
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BUKO PANDAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG / BEDROOM SECRET
ODEON	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
ODEON-2	BURLESK KING
ROBEN	BUKO PANDAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE HOLE / EARTHQUAKE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR-2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BURLESK KING
B	BUKO PANDAN
C	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-2	BUKO PANDAN
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BURLESK KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
CINEMA-12	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-14	SPY GAME
CINEMA-15	AMERICAN ADOBO

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SPY GAME
CINEMA-2	ZOOLANDER
CINEMA-3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN ADOBO

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
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CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
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5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6	AMERICAN ADOBO
7	HUBOG
8	BURLESK KING

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2	ZOOLANDER
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4	BUKO PANDAN
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6	HUBOG
7	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	BURLESK KING
10	SPY GAMES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	ON THE LINE
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	WALANG IWANAN
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	SPY GAMES
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7	BLACK HAWK DOWN
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	ZOOLANDER
11	HUBOG
12	BUKO PANDAN

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	ZOOLANDER
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	ON THE LINE
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	BUKO PANDAN
8	GLASS HOUSE
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	SPY GAME
11	BAGONG BUWAN
12	BURLESK KING

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1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	GLASS HOUSE
6	ZOOLANDER
7	BUKO PANDAN
8	BURLESK KING
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
11	BAGONG BUWAN
12	HUBOG

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9205452

1	ZOOLANDER
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	BUKO PANDAN
4	BURLESK KING
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
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12	ON THE LINE

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1	GLASS HOUSE
2	ZOOLANDER
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	AMERICAN ADOBO
5	BAGONG BUWAN
6	SPY GAMES
7	BURLESK KING
8	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
9	LORD OF THE RINGS
10	BUKO PANDAN

SM CITY CEBU 2313670

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	GLASS HOUSE
4	SPY GAMES
5	GIRL FEVER
6	BAGONG BUWAN
7	WALANG IWANAN
8	AMERICAN ADOBO

SM CITY ILOILO 3209422

1	2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
2	CLOSED
3	MUSKETEERS
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	WOLF GIRL
6	ON THE LINE
7	CLOSED
8	BAGONG BUWAN

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	SPY GAMES
4	AMERICAN ADOBO
5	DI KITA MA-REACH
6	BURLESK KING

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1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN

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1	BUKO PANDAN
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

SM CITY TUTUBAN 2514302

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	BURLESK KING

SM CITY DAVAO 2074004

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	YAMASHITA
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	BRO
6	SPY GAMES

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2	2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

Nobody brave enough to take on the monster

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

MAYBE the PBA Commissioner had to pin him down, hard, against the office floor to get his nod.

Maybe the two men first figured in a mean yes-or-no arm wrestling match.

There sure was furious haggling.

Neither a gun nor a dagger was used.

But you can bet PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino was very thankful last week after Jong Uichico agreed to take over the bed-ridden Ron Jacobs as coach of the RP national basketball team.

For the record, Bernardino had gone shopping for a replacement after it became clear Jacobs could not fully recover in time for the tryouts proper.

Bernardino had previously approached at least three pro coaches.

They were all awed. They all refused.

It was a hell of a killing job.

Nobody was brave enough to take on the monster.

***

All the three calibered coaches offered different excuses.

There was, however, this growing perception that they did not dare take over Jacobs because they did not want to follow the American wonder worker straight to the hospital.

So how did Bernardino manage to get Uichico to say yes?

For sure, there were no money incentives involved. You can bet on that.

The quiet, unassuming Uichico, in case you don't know, is an heir who could enjoy life's pleasures without having to take a fulltime job. Jong's mother, *Aling* Elena, is a sister of the legendary sportsman Danny Floro, the renowned philanthropist, Dr. Yes of Philippine sports.

Who knows? Maybe Jong's ever-caring father, *Mang* Tony, had advised his son to first make a very serious consideration as he could also be risking his health.

Why did Jong finally say yes?

It's simple and not very simple.

***

First, Uichico refused to be afraid.

Yes, self-styled basketball critics have readily frowned on the Uichico assignment. They unanimously wondered how the hell he could measure up to the mission.

You know what? Uichico must've had his own doubts and fears.

He could've, just like the other PBA coaching biggies, said no and turned his back.

But, then, what could've happened if he himself also lost heart and joined other dodgers?

Things would've been very complicated, to say the least.

He's not qualified? You can say what you want about the PBA decision throwing the terrible task to Jacobs' young understudy.

The great thing is that, in accepting the awesome challenge, Uichico showed a lot of character.

That alone was enough assurance the man would not lead the national team astray.

***

Other coaches may have better know-how, bigger credentials, greater experience.

But if the vital ingredients, namely humility, inner strength, upbringing, are not there, the mission is bound to founder.

To repeat: The basketball public was not unanimous on the Uichico appointment.

However, it would be silly to assume that Uichico, who has worked under Jacobs' giant shadow, would be walking in blind.

OK. Jacobs failed to finish the blueprint for the Asian Games venture before he was felled by a massive stroke.

The farthest Jacobs had gone was the initial phase of the tryouts, only half-completing the line-ups of two squads of aspirants slated to see action in the PBA wars.

But if his latest moves are any gauge, Jong has a strong, solid grasp of the Jacobs design.

He did the right thing in demanding for purely amateur rules starting in this year's first PBA conference.

In the amateurs, Uichico reminded, the man without the ball is very dangerous.

It's his goal to make his players move without the ball, and not just stand there and wait while a teammate works for isolation.

***

Uichico is also being guided by a solid Jacobs tenet: a good, solid team, not just better players.

At least, we can be sure squad formation will not be based on popularity, individual strengths and statistics.

Uichico is not forming another superstar-laden dream team.

His national squad will emerge based on the challenge lurking in the Asiad cage wars in September.

But it won't be as simple as that.

The monster challenge lies in the fact that he also has to practically exorcise a majority of the national cagers.

That's if he has to succeed in his vow to get rid of poor player attitude and habits.

Dropping the acquired pro fat may not be that daunting.

But Uichico may need more than enough courage and gallantry to turn rich, soft, lazy pros into brave, selfless, body-banging knights out on a mission to slay the monster.

Abductors release trader

BY AGNES E. DONATO

FOUR armed men on Saturday released a businessman that they abducted and robbed in Quezon City just hours earlier.

The suspects released Jimmy Go, 39, of Parada, Valenzuela City, unhurt after they robbed and detained him for about four hours.

Go reportedly does not plan to press any charges against the suspects, whom police have not yet arrested or even identified.

Initial investigation showed that the alleged abduction and robbery took place about 10 a.m. Saturday while Go was on his way to meet a friend who owns a junk shop in Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City.

Police said Go was on board a blue Elf van (WEA 923) with his driver and a helper when a green Isuzu Hi-Lander blocked their path near the Far Eastern University Hospital in Fairview in the same city.

Four men, two of them armed with caliber .45 pistols, alighted from the Isuzu Hi-Lander and introduced themselves to Go as members of the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group from Camp Crame, investigators said.

The armed men ordered the businessman to transfer to the Isuzu vehicle while one of them drove Go's van with Go's two companions on board.

Investigators learned that the men dropped Go's helper and driver along Commonwealth Avenue and, after a few more kilometers, abandoned Go's vehicle.

At 2:30 p.m., Go's friend Martha Molina, whom he was supposed to meet that day, went to the Central Police District Station 3 and reported that she received a phone call from Go.

Molina quoted Go as telling her that the armed men took his money which amounted to P200,000.

Police called up Go's house to confirm Molina's claim and was able to speak with Go's wife.

They said Mrs. Jackilyn Go told them that the armed men let her husband go somewhere in Meycauayan, Bulacan. Go was now home, she said.

Mrs. Go said that only P50,000, and not P200,000, was taken from her husband.

Police said Go stressed that he only wanted the incident to be put on record and that he had no plans of pressing charges against the suspects if they were caught.

Go also reportedly refused to give investigators any descriptions of the men who allegedly abducted and robbed him.

16-year-old shot dead in Sta. Cruz

BRAZIL B. Gaho, 16, was shot dead by an unidentified barangay *kagawad* (security officer) in Sta. Cruz, Manila yesterday.

Gaho, of Tondo, Manila, was shot once around 2 a.m. yesterday near the corner of Felix Huertas and Bulaon streets in Sta. Cruz, said investigator SPO1 Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District homicide section.

Gaho and his friends were walking home along Oroquieta Street when barangay security officers, led by Manny Guevarra, tried to arrest one of them.

"Let him go, he did not do anything wrong," they told the security officers but Guevarra allegedly continued to drag the unidentified youth to the barangay hall.

The youngsters allegedly threw a bottle at the security officers. One of the officers allegedly fired at the group, hitting Gaho in the chest.

Gaho's body was brought to the St. Vincent Funeral Parlor for autopsy while the police tried to identify the gunman.

2 injured in LP fire

A WOMAN and a village watchman were injured and around 80 families lost their homes in a fire that hit a slum in Las Piñas on Saturday morning.

Eileen Valenzuela, 24, and a village watchman identified only as Jun suffered superficial wounds during the two-hour fire that hit Batibot compound in Barangay Pamplona, said FO1 Bobby Imbo.

As of yesterday, investigators have not determined what caused the fire. They said it started around 10:30 a.m. in the two-story house of a Ramil Camagay.

The fire razed mostly shanties in the populated barangay, Imbo said.

Christian V. Esguerra

BEFORE THE CROWDS COME

JOAN BONDOC

Policemen take advantage of the lull before the arrival of the crowds at the Edsa Shrine to celebrate the first anniversary of Edsa Dos.

'I was not aware . . .

(From page A19)

Each week, different TV and radio news anchors interview the President and selected Cabinet members. It was Sanchez's turn last week.

Some reporters covering the Palace have called the attention of the Office of the Press Secretary to the embargo violation.

Press Undersecretary for broadcast Manuel Sanchez, who is in charge of the show, claimed he was just as surprised that it came out on TV Patrol.

Sanchez also preempted the simultaneous airing of ousted Joseph Estrada's statement on military operations against Abu Sayyaf last Sept. 16, 2000 by reading it on air a few hours before the former president was to go on national television.

Malacañang reporters protested then, saying Sanchez leaked a military decision prematurely.

But then-Press Secretary Ricardo Puno did not censure Sanchez, who insisted that a Palace official gave her a copy of the statement.

But this time, some reporters said they did not mind much that Sanchez tried to pass off the interview as her exclusive.

"Her story angle was old news, anyway," one reporter said.

Sanchez aired the part of the interview where the President said that she has called for a "political summit," which she already announced weeks ago.

ABS-CBN news director Ging Reyes said "we have first crack at the story" since the network produces "May Gloria Pa Ang bukas Mo."

"We never heard any requests or instruction for an embargo," Reyes said.

She also claimed the decision to air the President's statement on Friday on TV Patrol was made because "anti-Gloria" stories dominated the first few segments of the news program.

"We wanted to balance it and we had the material so we did the story," Reyes said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, January 21, 2002
2nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 S 15:16-23
Gospel: Mk 2:18-22

One day, when the disciples of John the Baptist and the Pharisees were fasting, some people asked Jesus, "Why is it that both the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but yours do not?" Jesus answered, "How can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. But the day will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them and on that day they will fast.

No one sews a piece of new cloth on an old coat, because the new patch will shrink and tear away from the old cloth, making a worse tear. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins, for the wine would burst the skins and then both the wine and the skins would be lost. But new wine, new skins!"

Commentary

As long as Christ the bridegroom is with us, fasting has no meaning. The real and symbolic meaning of fasting is to empty ourselves, to make room for Christ the Lord who, alone, can fill up our lives. Religious practices, like fasting, are only means never the end. They are to prepare us for God's coming; our target in spiritual life is that He may live in us, and so we may grow to the fullness of Christ. The disciples, in spite of trials, difficulties and sufferings of all kind, experience the Joy of having Jesus with them. We, on the contrary, give the impression that what is central in our Christian spirituality are the religious practices, the traditions (with small "t"). Perhaps the new wine of the joyous presence of God in our life is too much for our serious old wineskins.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Credibility of witnesses—Generally, when the issue of one of credibility of witnesses, appellate courts will not disturb the findings of the trial court, considering that the latter is in a better position to decide the question, having heard the witnesses themselves and observed their deportment and manner of testifying during the trial. The exceptions to the rule are: (1) when patent inconsistencies in the statements of witnesses are ignored by the trial court, or (2) when the conclusions arrived at are clearly unsupported by the evidence. In the instant cases, the exceptions are inapplicable. [Citations omitted.] [Justice De Leon Jr., Second Division, People v. Garcia, G.R. No. 135666, July 20, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Cavite schools superintendent denies teachers' accusations

THE SUPERINTENDENT of Cavite schools has denied the allegations of several teachers in the province who have accused her of abuse of authority, attempt to bribe provincial officials, whitewashing of the case of another teacher, and others.

Dr. Leonora Ignacio, Cavite schools superintendent, made the denial in a statement she sent to the INQUIRER.

Five of the teachers earlier complained to Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi accusing Ignacio of covering up for teacher Lucinda Villa whom they sued for grave threats last October.

"It is not true that we persuaded the teachers not to file criminal complaints against Villa nor seek the governor's assistance," Ignacio said in her statement. "We even told them that it was their right."

Ignacio said she filed a malversation case against another one of her accusers, Sonia Taduran, OIC of the Naic National High School, because she could not explain and submit receipts covering a total of P552,000.

"As to Gloria Jaymalin (another accuser), she is out on bail," Ignacio said in her statement. "There is a case filed at RTC Imus against her for falsification of public documents."

On the accusation that she "once attempted to bribe the provincial administrator (lawyer Romy Pulido)," Ignacio said in her statement that it would be "foolish of me to offer anyone 50 percent of the discounts being given by any supplier and for me to keep the other 50 percent because I have known for more than three years that he (Maliksi) is adamant about having me ousted (as schools superintendent) of Cavite, for reasons I cannot fathom."

She added: "Why should I bribe Atty. Pulido? I'll gain nothing. He is not even a signatory to the (purchase request) or (purchase order for lesson plans)."

A statement issued by Maliksi's office last week said seven of Ignacio's teacher accusers have asked the governor for protection.

"We fear for our lives following what happened to one of us when she stood her ground against Dr. Ignacio," the statement quoted Taduran as saying.

Taduran, who filed the most serious charges against Ignacio with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, was referring to "two terrifying experiences" fellow teacher-complainant Jaymalin had allegedly suffered.

Jaymalin said Ignacio started making her life as a teacher miserable as far back as 1994.

The statement said that in the presence of Maliksi and Taduran, Jaymalin said that at 11 a.m. on Aug. 29, 1997, six masked men carrying long and short firearms came on board a blue car with tinted windows, barged into her house and demanded that she go with them.

"Obviously their intent was just to terrorize me because when I refused, they left," Jaymalin told Maliksi.

She said that on June 5 about 9:30 a.m., three Imus policemen arrested her while she was teaching a class and brought her to Camp Pantaleon Garcia Camp. She said they claimed they had a warrant for her arrest but they refused to give it to her.

"Had not my school officer in charge posted bail for me, I would have been jailed in connection with a falsification charge filed against me in a court in Imus," said Jaymalin. Both the DECS and the Civil Service Commission had already cleared her of the same charge, she claimed.

Metro Manila groups support Camacho

SEVERAL groups in Metro Manila have expressed support for Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho who they said should be confirmed by the Commission on Appointment.

The groups include the Malabon Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., the Rotary International District 3800, the Rotaract Club of Binondo, the Girl Scouts of the Philippines Caloocan Council, and the Metalworking Industries Association of the Philippines Inc.

The Malabon Chamber of Commerce and Industry represents the business sector of that northern Metro Manila City and is led by Manuel Chua Co Kiong.

"We need a financial practitioner who is experienced in formulating and implementing financial policies," Co Kiong said in a statement.

Rotary District 3800 is led by Eduardo Chua Co Kiong, who is also immediate past president of the Metal Working Industries Association of the Philippines.

The statement of support for Camacho also included Mark Anthony Luna, president of the Rotaract Club of Binondo, and officers Jane Yugioksing, Anthony Roy Tang and Oliver Salud; and Lina Aurelio, council president of the Girl Scout of the Philippines Caloocan Council.

Doctors . . .

(From page A19)

face before the office of Pasig prosecutor Gabriel Alberto.

Fiscal Alberto will begin the preliminary investigation of Inocencio's complaint that Sanchez did not remit her SSS contributions when she was still working as a domestic helper of the broadcaster and TV talk show host.

If found guilty, Sanchez could face a jail term of not less than six years, Mauricio said.

KABAYAN HOTEL
Senate majority floor leader Loren Legarda and fellow senator Noli de Castro visit the newly opened three-star Kabayan Hotel in Pasay City. The facilities of the hotel, which was inaugurated Jan. 18, include 30 dormitory rooms. Hotel president Nelson L. Napud (right) escorted the senators.

'Marikina will be our Singapore'

(From page A19)

More schools, cultural areas, and parks would be built, and street signs would sprout abundantly in the city, Fernando said. Education would be free for all, she said and stressed that students will not only be taught to learn, but also to think. She said that new education methodologies and paradigms with emphasis on the technical side of learning would be introduced.

FERNANDO

Jobs

Apart from accomplishments in infrastructure development, beautification and education programs, the city administration was also able to create more than 1,000 jobs through its regular job fairs, job matching, manpower profiling and skills training and enhancement projects under the One-Job-One family program of her administration, Fernando said.

"We will bring down income-generating projects to various communities where the unemployment problem is more pronounced," she said. "We will scout for business opportunities (that call for) subcontracting, which we can bring down to our communities.

The four shoe caravans that her administration launched last year were all successes and brought in P4 million in extra income "making Marikina City, once again the undisputed shoe capital of the Philippines," Fernando said. At the same time, the city government has undertaken a program to fully computerize the local system, she said. Among these programs, which are also expected to be fully operational this year, were Geographical Information System (GIS), Management Information System (MIS) and Call Center, Fernando said.

Even though system is costly, the advantages it would bring are tremendous. "All those systems will provide total computerization for government operations and thus replace the traditional manual system of the local government," Fernando said.

Health

The city government has also embarked on an ambitious health program for local residents. Fernando said the city government would be coming up with a privilege card for the exclusive use of Marikina City residents that would enable them to avail themselves of medical and dental services the city provides.

Emphasis on health education and a waste management campaign would be started by adopting practical and cost efficient strategies that would facilitate simultaneous delivery of health information to the more than 86,000 households of Marikina, Fernando said. The Marikina River Front would be continuously developed, and additional sports and recreational facilities established and like Singapore's Clark Quay and Boat Quay, the city's river park will become Marikina's number one signature image.

A community mortgage program aimed at ridding the city of squatters and slum colonies would complement the development of the Marikina River Front. Under the program, community associations would be supported and encouraged to purchase huge tracks of lands, which would be distributed and sold to low income families, Fernando said.

She said a soil-recycling program would also be undertaken to ensure supply of filling materials to low-lying areas of the city.

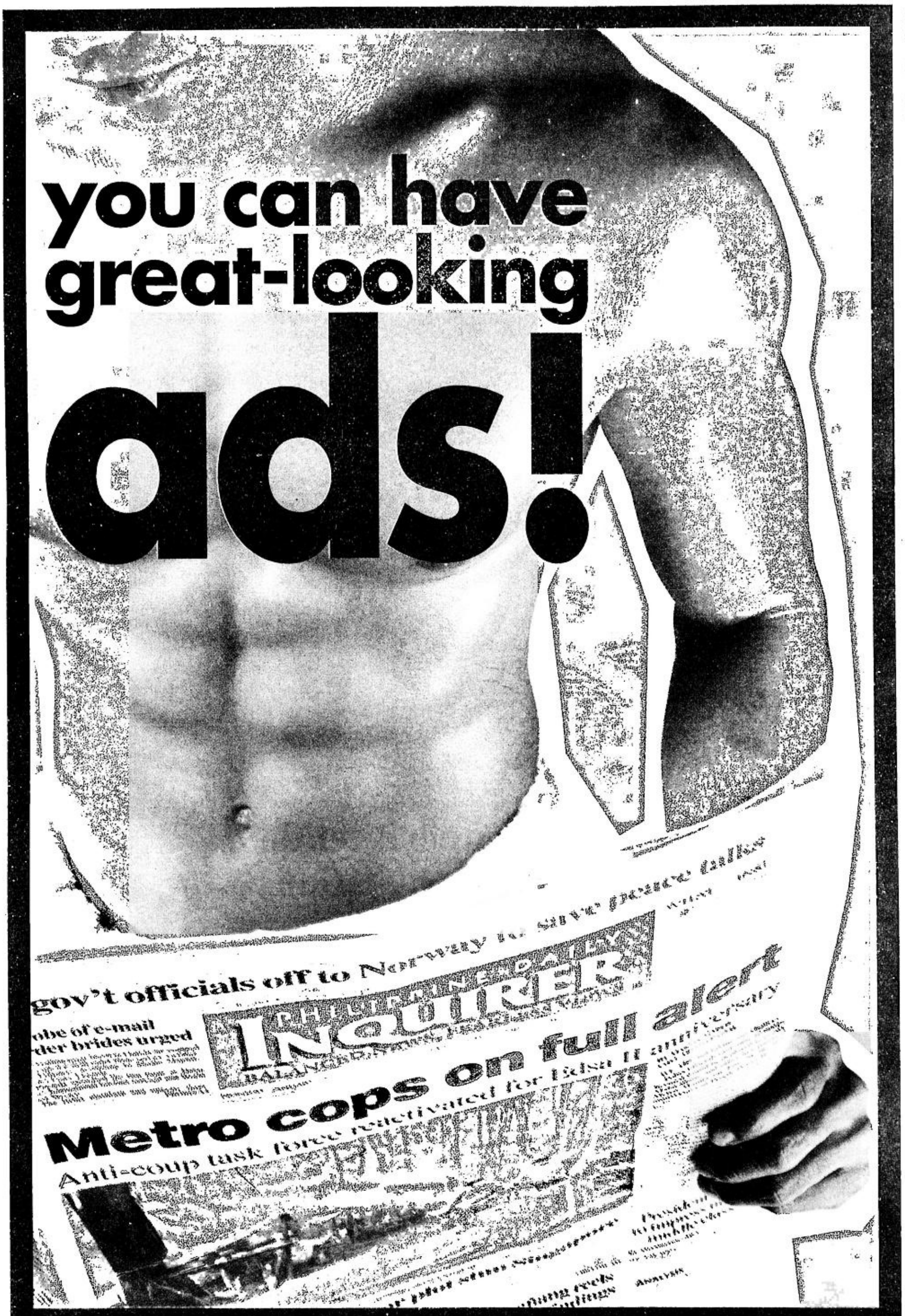
Intervention

Laws would be strictly enforced and pertinent ordinances promoted to ensure public safety and security, particularly on streets and sidewalks, Fernando said. Access to mobility would be made available to the common man through new jeepney and tricycle routes, and the establishment of a River taxi system, she said.

But she admitted that there is no balance in the existing number of jeepney and tricycle routes that there are pockets of communities, which are inaccessible and government intervention is needed.

The local legislative body would be asked to promulgate laws on Investment and Environmental Codes to attract investors and make Marikina a business- and labor-friendly city, Fernando said. Local barangay units and cause-oriented groups would also be asked to contribute programs at grass roots level in aide of city's development.

"Without their participation, our dreams will remain just dreams," Fernando said.



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Muntinlupa has best cop station

NATIONAL Capital Regional Police (NCRPO) Director General Edgardo Aglipay hailed Muntinlupa City for maintaining peace and order, particularly in its campaign to clear the Alabang sidewalks of illegal vendors.

Muntinlupa has also won the best police station award in the entire NCR for 2001, particularly for its drive against illegal drugs, according to a statement from Mayor Jaime Fresnedi.

The Muntinlupa Police Drug Enforcement Unit got a high 78.26 percent overall performance rating, followed by Caloocan Police with 75.85 percent and Las Piñas Police with 72.6 percent, said Fresnedi's statement.

In a recent visit to the city, Aglipay said Muntinlupa was a role model in the successful handling of the peace and order. He cited leadership of Fresnedi in coordination with the city police.

Aglipay even joked that he only visits the city to have a snack, to show that Muntinlupa has never been a problem to the NCRPO, according to the statement.

Earlier, Fresnedi intensified the city government's campaign against illegal structures on sidewalks, as well as against "rugby boys" and the homeless who slept on the streets of Alabang.

The campaign was conducted with the help of the Traffic Enforcement and Discipline Office, the Public Order and Safety Office, the Business Permit and License Office and the city police.

MAN WITH A MISSION. Former Flipper trainer-turned-dolphin-liberator Richard O'Barry is in Manila on a mission: He wants freedom for the four dolphins, also called false killer whales, which are now in captivity and are the main attraction at Ocean Adventure at the Camayan Wharf in Subic Bay. O'Barry, now a wildlife consultant to the World Society for the Protection of Animals, has offered his services in releasing and rehabilitating the sea mammals back in the wild. So far, he has released 12 dolphins in captivity all over the world, going against a billion-dollar industry of live dolphin shows that he says abuses the animal into committing suicide in some cases. An untrained dolphin is sold for US$40,000 and a show-ready dolphin for US130,000, says Trixie Concepcion of the Earth-Island Institute-Philippines. ROGER MARGALLO

Macapagal scholars

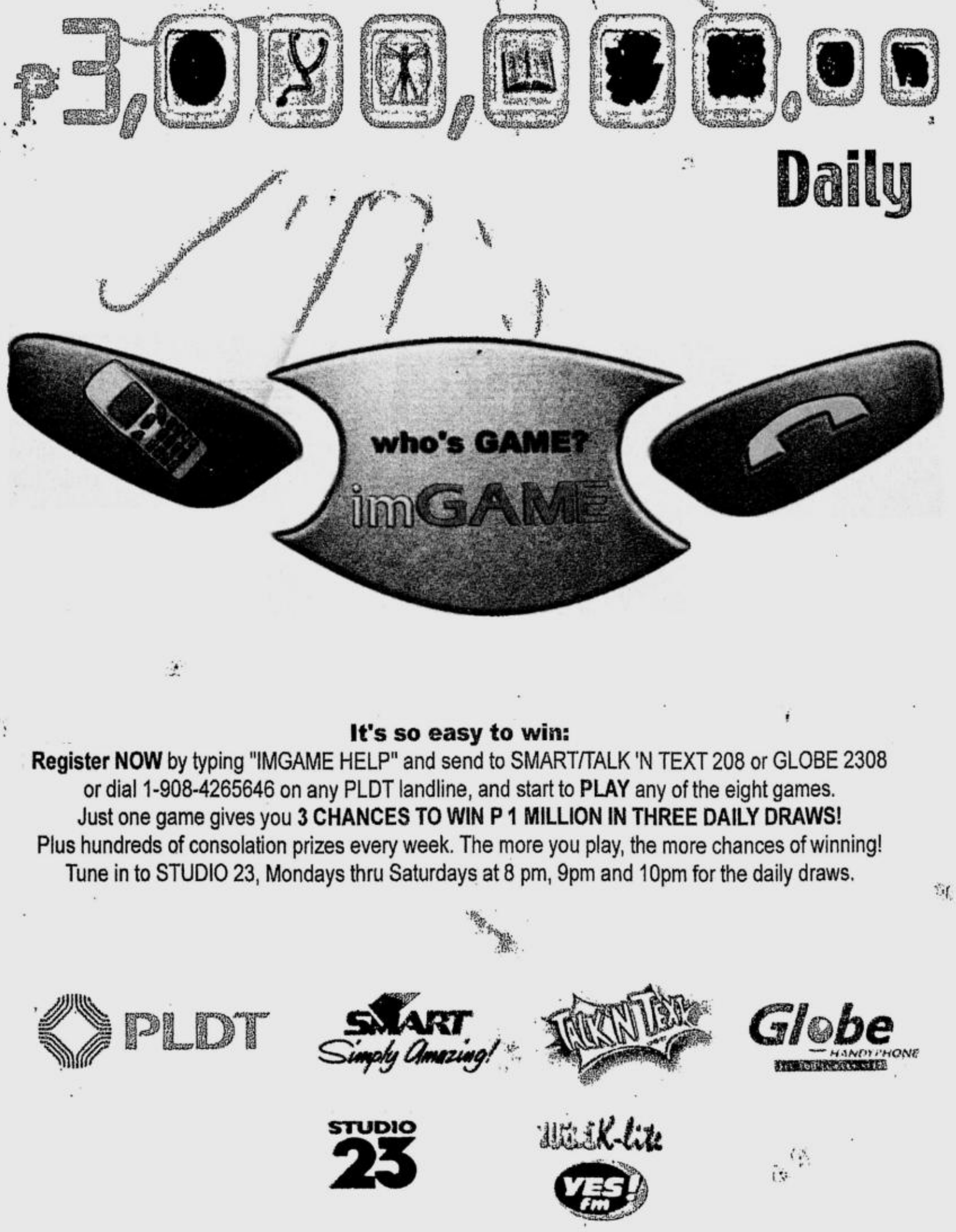
IF YOU are a high school graduate or is graduating this school year and is from an urban poor family, you may be qualified for the President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Scholarship Program for the Urban Poor.

The program is recruiting and selecting new scholars for the first semester of school year 2002-2003.

The PGMA Scholarship Program has 1,289 scholars currently enrolled in courses in education, the social sciences, engineering and technology, mass communication and commerce at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) and the Technological University of the Philippines (TUP).

For application forms and more information, students can visit their local social services office or the CIDSS secretariat at the Department of Social Welfare and Development-National Capital Region, 389 San Rafael corner Legarda, Sampaloc, Manila, or call 734-86-40.

Who's game to win up to



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   2308 (for Globe)

2. Ask your friends to text **your account number** (example below) and send to:

   GA00001

   208 (for Smart/Talk 'n Text)
   2308 (for Globe)

3. Ask your friends to key in your account number when prompted when they call **PLDT 1-908-IAMJOIN (1-908-426-5646)**

To Verify Your Account Number and Reward Points, choose ANY of the 2 options:

1. **TYPE** the following message and **SEND** to:

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'Women at War' on 'I-Witness' tonight

ASK anyone to think of Filipino women who went to war and instantly, images of Gabriela Silang holding up her bolo or Melchora Aquino tenderly nursing wounded Katipuneros come to mind.

Hardly do people think of modern-day women warriors of the MILF, NPA, urban guerillas and the military. But theirs are stories as compelling as their counterparts in history.

At 11 tonight on GMA 7, ace reporter Maki Pulido immerses herself in rebel camps safely tucked beyond the clutches of government forces as well as in the military camps close at the heels of the elusive enemy.

If you want to see it first!

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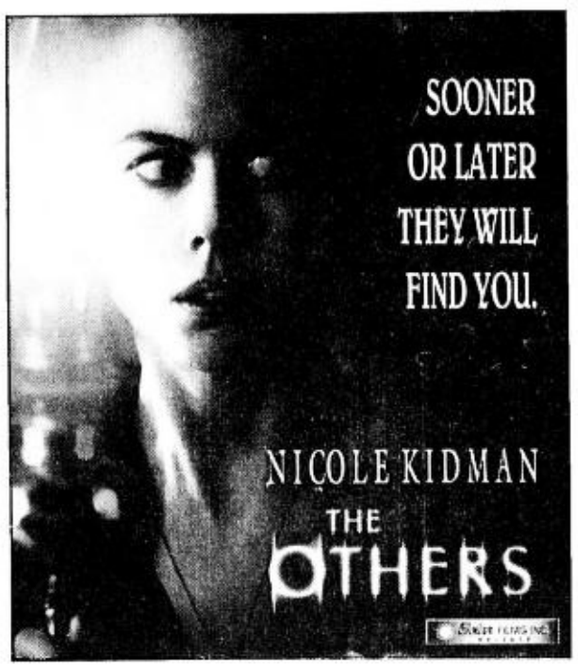

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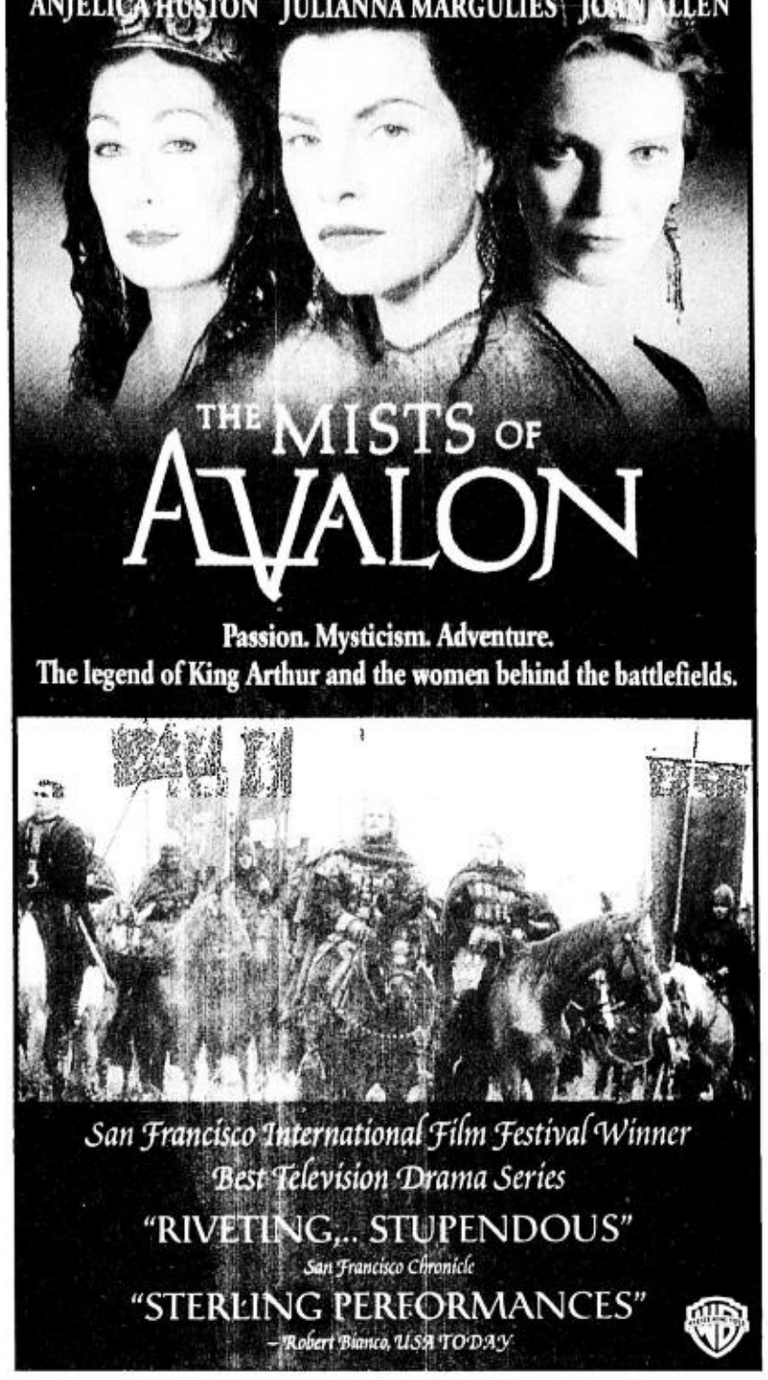

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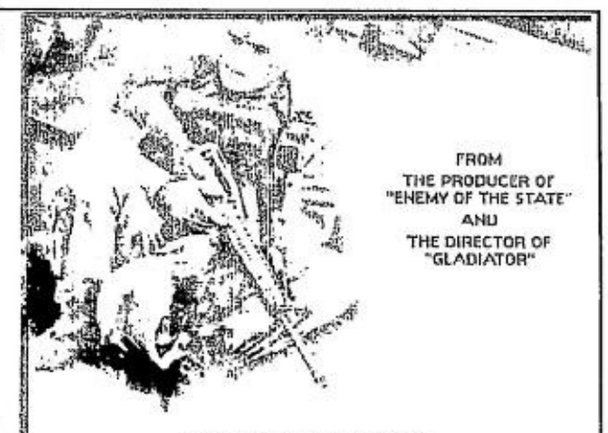

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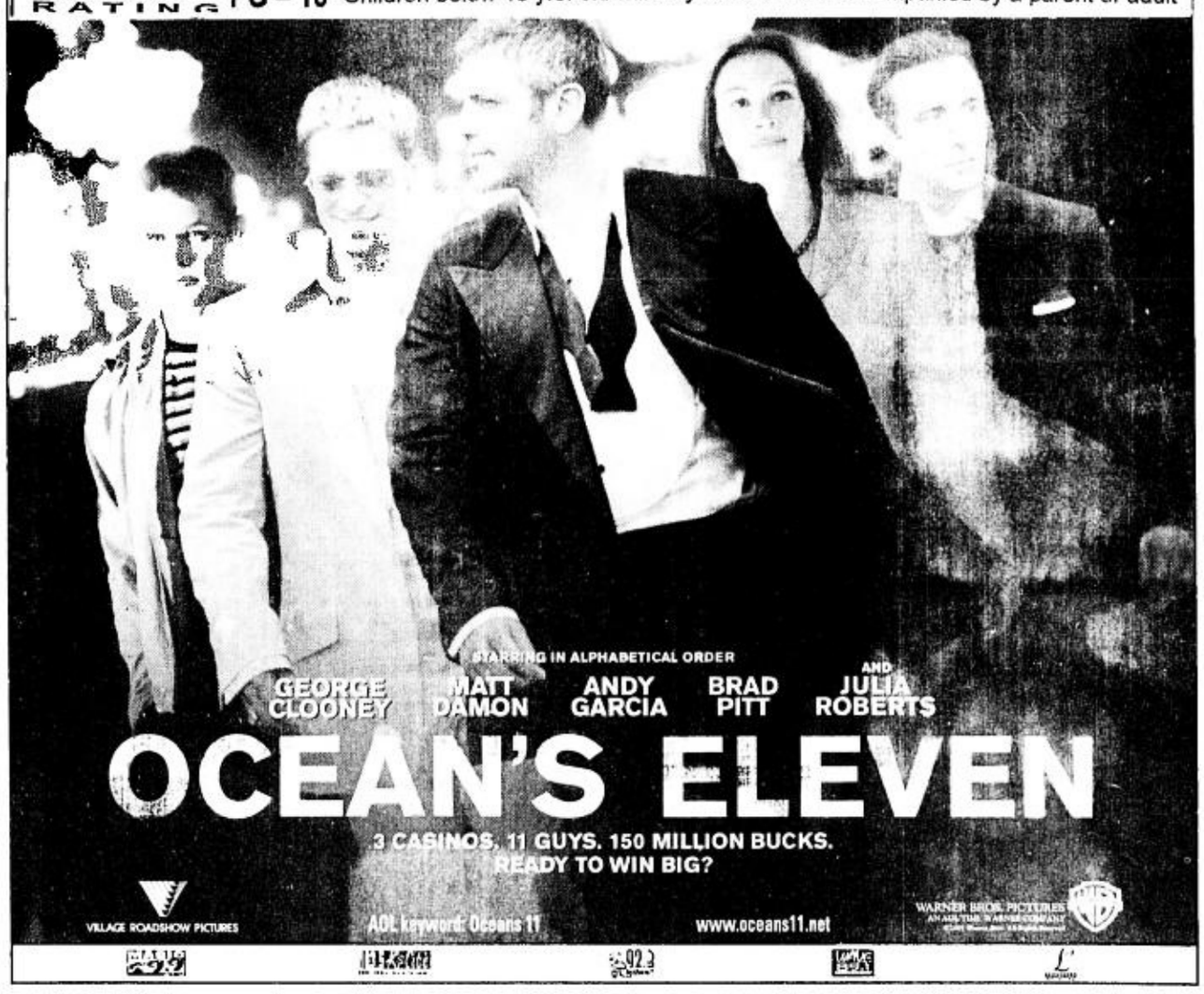

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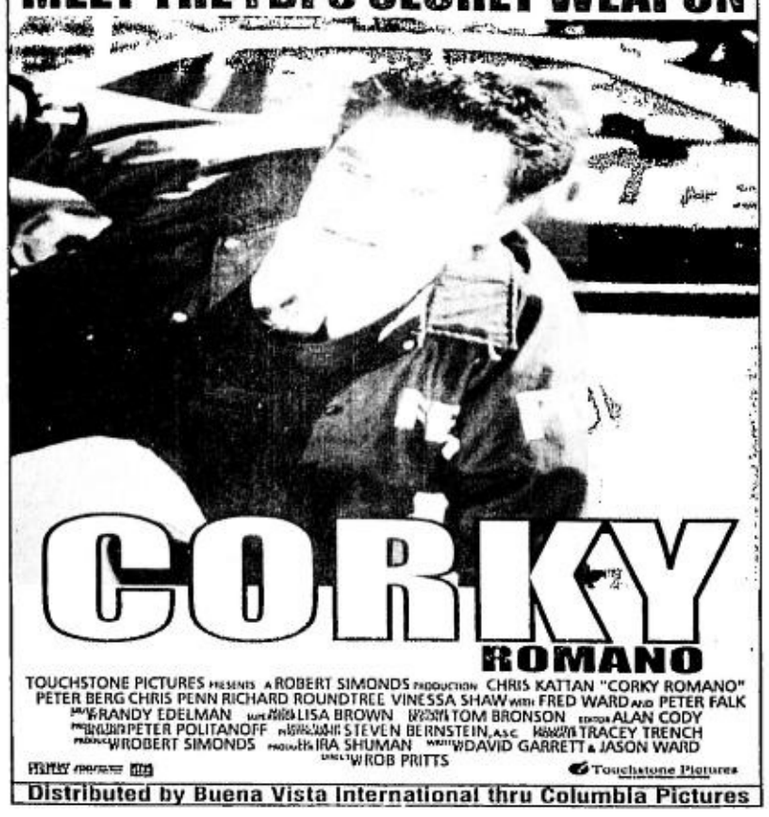

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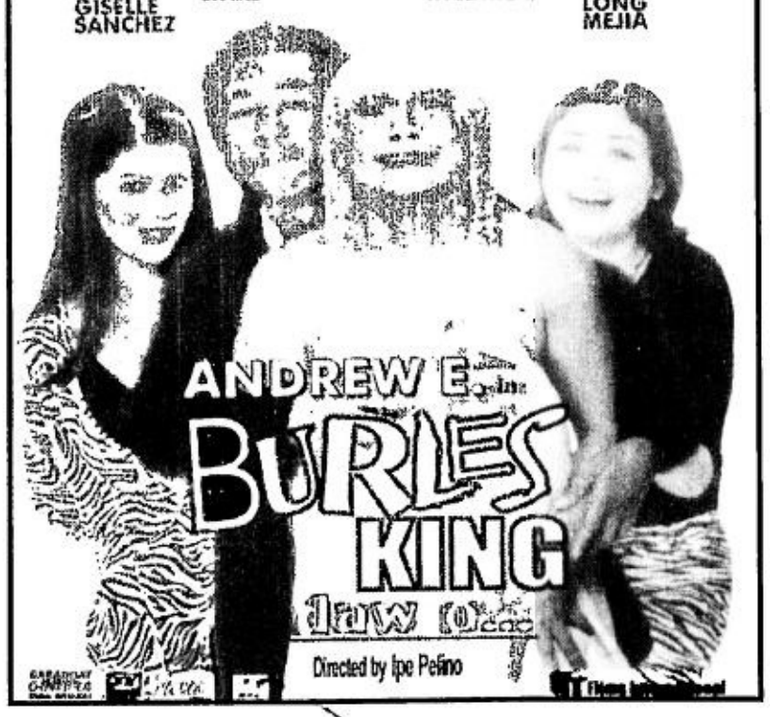

Ebb and surge, plus tempo and contrast

LEELEE Sobieski comes into her own as a young film star in "The Glass House." In the psychological thriller, the teen actress plays a 16-year-old whose loving parents die in a car accident. Now orphans, she and her adolescent brother are handed over to their former neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Glass, who have been named in their late parents' will as their new mom and dad.

At first, the Glass couple appears to be loving and considerate, and Sobieski's character is grateful for the caring way that they have been able to salve the grief that she and her brother feel.

In time however, the Glasses reveal their true colors: she is a drug addict and very neurotic, while he appears to be in big financial trouble and is bent on using their inheritance to get him off the hook.

Thus, the story that starts out in an ostensibly simple, straightforward manner soon turns dark, dangerous and complex. To its credit, the film keeps its dark, dire proceedings eventful, and we often fear for its young characters' safety.

The danger they face is particularly frightful because it comes from the man and woman who are supposed to be their new parents, whose avowed task it is to protect them against evildoers. To discover that they themselves are the evil ones is especially scarifying for the movie's young protagonists.

Sobieski does well as the movie's young lead, but she tends to be cool instead of warm and

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

empathetic. Still, she does provide the plot with a strong fulcrum that enables it to proceed decisively to its foregone conclusion.

Toward the end, the storytelling gets rather messy, with some Mafia types thrown in for good measure, but no great harm is done. What is offputting is the fact that the movie's suspense factor is so unrelieved that viewers aren't given a chance to take a breather before the next scarifying plot development hits them.

We're talking ebb and surge here, plus tempo and contrast. More of these elements would have made the terror in this production not as artificially induced and automatic as it sometimes feels.

True story

HE bested nine other amateur sleuths in figuring out the killer's identity on Studio 23's reality series, "Murder in Small Town X." But, a week after his TV triumph, **Angel Juarbe** died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Juarbe, a firefighter for the last seven years (Ladder 12 in the Chelsea district of New York City), died during rescue operations at Ground Zero at the World Trade Center. His body was laid to rest last Dec. 1.

"Murder in Small Town X" is telecast on Studio 23 every Sunday at 9:30 p.m. As the unique game show's top winner, Juarbe won $250.000.

'Ang Sinungaling'

TANGHALANG Pilipino's production of **Carlo Goldori**'s "The Liar" (translated as "Ang Sinungaling) will have three more performances—at Jan. 25 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 26 and 27 at 3 p.m., at the CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute.

Boboy Garrovillo stars as Lelio, a cad in search of pretty conquests. He tells outrageous lies that get him in trouble with his father, his neighbors, and the guests at the inn next door. **Nonon Padilla** directs.

Goldberg to host Oscars show anew

THE 74TH Academy Awards show will be hosted by **Whoopi Goldberg**. This is her fourth time to host the Oscars.

Goldberg won a Supporting Actress Oscar in 1991 for her portrayal of Oda Mae Brown in "Ghost." She also received a Best Actress nomination in 1985 for her motion picture debut as Celie in "The Color Purple."

Her other films include "Girl, Interrupted," "Boys on the Side," "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," "Sister Act" and "Rat Race."

BACK-TO-BACK CONCERT

Two generations of original Filipino music in one special night will be showcased in the concert, "Side A and Freestyle: Back to Back (Live on Tour)," which kicks off Feb. 8 (Saturday), 8:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. The bands will also go to Cebu City Sports Complex on Feb. 16 and Clark Expo Centennial on Feb. 23. The show is a production of Maxi-Media International and is presented by Close-Up Crystal and Mossimo, with Don Henrico's. Official concert stations are RX 93.1, 93.9 KC-FM, Mellow Touch 94.7 and 96.3 WRock. For tickets, call SM Ticketnet at 911-5555 or Maxi-Media at 551-8999.

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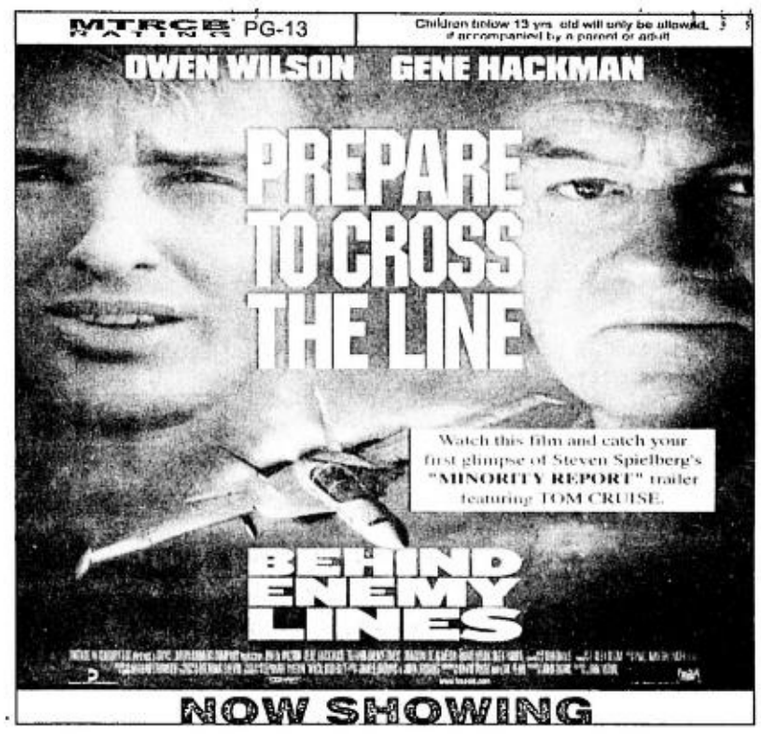
BEHIND ENEMY LINES - P13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SPY GAME - P13 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50	AMERICAN ADOBO - R18 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.



After a bad year, Bong thinks of going back to politics

EXCEPT for his winning the award for best comedy actor last year in the Star Awards for TV for his GMA 7 sitcom, "Idol Ko si Kap," **Bong Revilla Jr.** chooses to forget 2001.

"It was a bad year for me," he maintains. "But I believe it paved the way for a better year in 2002. This is my year, the year of the horse and so far, I'm off to a good start."

At the start of the year, former San Juan Mayor **Jinggoy Estrada** forgave Bong for having turned his back on Erap during Edsa Dos. Jinggoy said so when he was interviewed on TV about his new movie. The two have yet to talk again, but Bong says he will do it at the right time.

"At least we both know that the hurt and the pain are no longer there," Bong says. "We've chosen to forgive and forget. We will patch up our differences and talk again when the right time comes."

Now out of politics after losing in his reelection bid as Cavite governor in last year's elections, Bong wants to concentrate on movies. He was not seen on the big screen for more than a year, but he remained visible on TV, in his weekly sitcom.

His latest movie was with **Judy Ann Santos**, "Minsan Ko Lang Sasabihin," shown in November 2000.

He starts the year with an action-comedy-romance starrer, "Mahal Kita . . . Final Answer" from Viva Films, playing for the first time opposite **Rufa Mae Quinto**.

"I didn't make any movie for more than a year," he says. "After the elections, I waited for guidance on the best time to make movies again. Movies are my first love and also my bread and butter even when I was in politics. So I will not give them up."

Of his political loss, he sys, "I was destined to lose. Now I can concentrate on show biz."

While he prepared to face the cameras again, Bong also made sure he lost weight. So far, his thrice-weekly workouts are working.

"From 210 pounds, I'm down to 185," he beams. "My waistline also went down, from 37 to 33. Before, trying hard *ako magpa*-cute. Now, *totoong* cute na."

He finds Rufa Mae very easy to work with.

"On the set, she seemed like she was only playing," Bong shares. "She doesn't care what the role asks for, as long as she can make people laugh. We have good chemistry, which made us comfortable with each other."

The movie title is a take-off from the popular line of game show host **Christopher de Leon** in "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire," which Viva is also producing for TV. The game show is a vital venue in reuniting the characters of Bong and Rufa Mae at the end of the story.

"I'm more relaxed in action-com-

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

edy films," Bong says. "It's not as hard and as tiring as hard action. Not too many people know that I'm a comedian in real life, so I enjoy doing comedy onscreen."

After "Mahal Kita, Final Answer," Bong will do a movie with **Assunta de Rossi**, to be produced by his own film outfit. He has another project for Viva which will start filming middle of this year.

Is it too early to decide whether he will return to politics in 2004?

"If I have to decide, I have to decide now," he says. "But I don't know yet. I'm not sure about going into politics again. I leave it up to God to guide me on what to do. A number of film projects are waiting for me. I'd rather make movies at this time."

Mobile Wave tour

MY writer-friend **Gerard Ramos** doesn't have to carry a disc-man to listen to his favorite tunes even when he's in transit. His slick Siemens SL45 mobile phone has a built-in MP3 player, which allows him to store up to 45 minutes of music and play the selections whenever and wherever he wants to.

When you're with him, Gerard can make you listen to nearly a dozen tunes from his phone, like "It's Raining Men," "All By Myself," "Out of Reach," "The Harder I Try," "Better Days," "Fallin'" and **Robbie Williams**' "Not of This Earth."

When I was in the US West Coast last October, the Siemens S40, a tri-band phone, was my perfect travelling companion. And with my Globe international roaming access, I was able to send and receive text messages to and from Manila any time of the day, despite the 16-hour difference.

Siemens has yet to dominate the mobile phone market, but executives of the company are optimistic that they can become the leader in due time.

"We're not afraid of competition," says Siemens executive vice president of mobile phones for Asia Pacific Martin Kinne. "Some started much ahead of us and had a stronghold. But our growth the past three years has made us three times larger.

"The leader changed in global mobile phones. We're trying to catch up and we're doing well. I believe Siemens stands a chance."

Siemens will launch a first in Manila, a Mobile Wave Tour, featuring the world's top surfers and the country's popular performers. On Jan. 22, it will bring in the first and largest man-made wave machine, in cooperation with the Department of Tourism.

To be set up at the Quirino Granstand, the wave machines is powered by four submersible 800-horsepower pumps capable of pumping half a million liters of water a minute over a stationary padded wave form.

International and local surfers will test their mettle on the wave machine from Jan. 22 to 27.

Top artists will perform, including **Lani Misalucha, Janno Gibbs, Cris Villonco, Ara Mina, Joyce Jimenez** and Side A Band. **Calvin Millado, Bianca Araneta** and **Amanda Griffin** will host the show.

For the succeeding days of the Siemens Mobile Wave Tour, **Shannen Torres, JM Rodriguez, Crystal, Mon Castro, Craig Tuazon** and **Drinie Aguilar** will host, while Mulatto, Pido and Take One, Hyperbeat and Groove Nation DJs will perform.

I USED to be trying-hard-to-be-cute, now I'm really cute, says size-33 Revilla.

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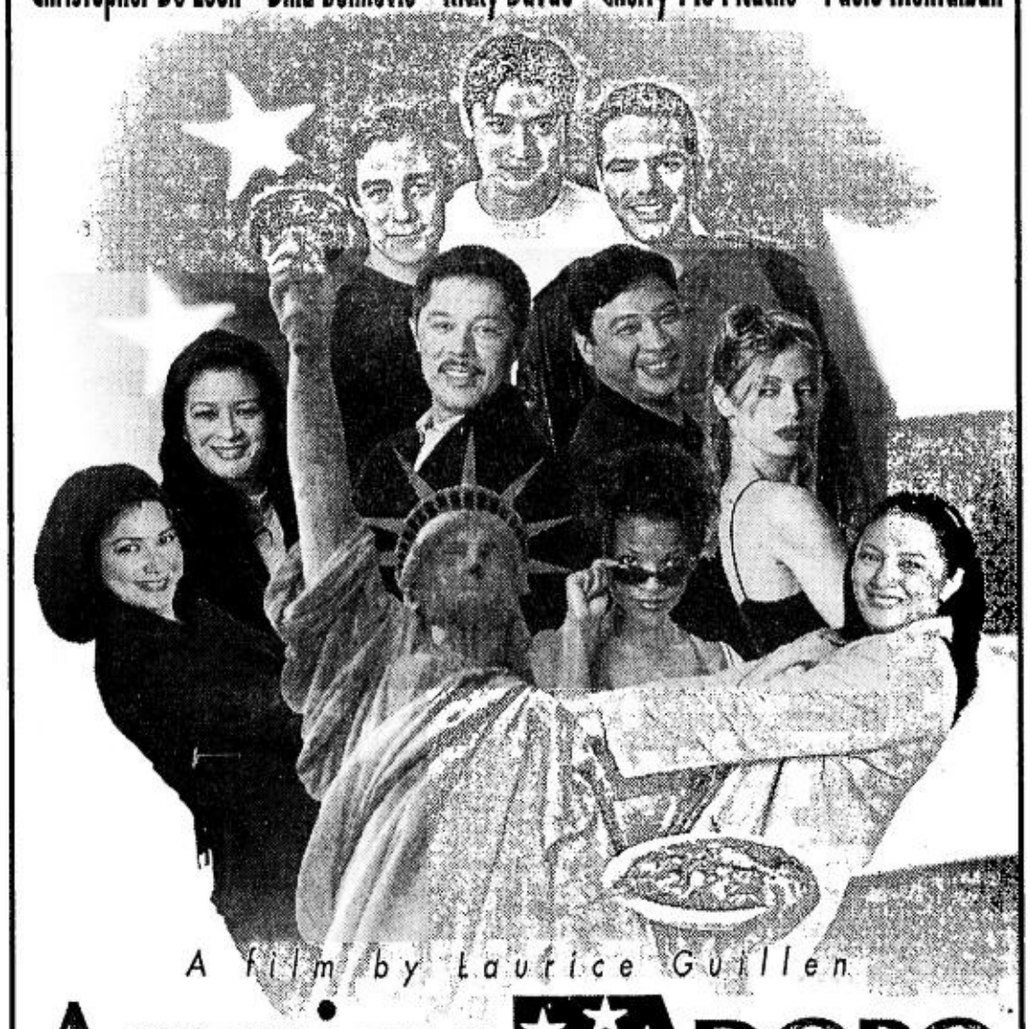

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Pops shines while 'someone' watches every night

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

IF you haven't watched the **Pops Fernandez** concert series at On Stage in Greenbelt, you must make time for it this coming weekend, Jan. 25 and 26. Of course, I am biased, but this show is a unique look at how far Pops has evolved, both as a performer and in her personal life.

I teased her that this is her first show in almost four years that does not include "I Will Survive," **Cher**'s "Believe" and "Strong Enough," "If I Should Love Again," or "Someone that I Used to Love." In the past, she valiantly tried to show the world that she was moving on but her sons still expressed so much heartache and pain. This time around we are treated to her undeniable metamorphosis.

Pops is radiant. Her hair is sleek and straight, her stage costumes are sexy, but not overtly so. Pops is a true style icon, and women won't be disappointed with her costume changes that encompasses the entire spectrum of possible concert attire, from beaded gowns, empire-waisted satin skirts with beaded knit tops to sexy hot pants, an Indian inspired gown, low-rider jeans and fully beaded sweater knit catsuits.

She banters comfortably both with her jampacked audience, and with her guests. The stage design is simple, the whiteness isn't stark; in fact it is refreshing. I saw her last Jan. 17 when her guests were **RJ Rosales**, who impressed me with his confident, soulful singing, the consistently excellent **Robert Seña**, and the incomparable **Ai-Ai de las Alas**.

Credit must be given to her director, **Floy Quintos**, for keeping the production tight.

RJ had a beautiful duet with Pops. When I told her that I loved their duet of "Long and Winding Road," Pops actually told me that her musical director **Homer Flores** was able to create a seamless medley of two songs. I didn't realize there were two distinct songs, the other song being "Come In from the Rain."

Their voices blended very well. The romantic in me started imagining who I'd eventually dedicate that medley to.

Ai-Ai had the entire house in the palm of her hand, with her risqué yet inoffensive humor. **Fernando Zobel**, who was in the audience with his wife **Kitkat**, one of Pops' closest friends from her International School days, was a game participant when Ai-Ai said she was a close friend of "elites, the bishops and the clergies." He even gamely sang a line from his favorite song "Unforgettable."

Ai-Ai joked that she was friends with the rich and the powerful, just like the Zobels.

FERNANDEZ

When she spotted me in the audience, I wasn't spared. She ad-libbed that she was tight with the "Cojuangco-Aquinos, the Bushes, the trees, the roots and the chlorophylls."

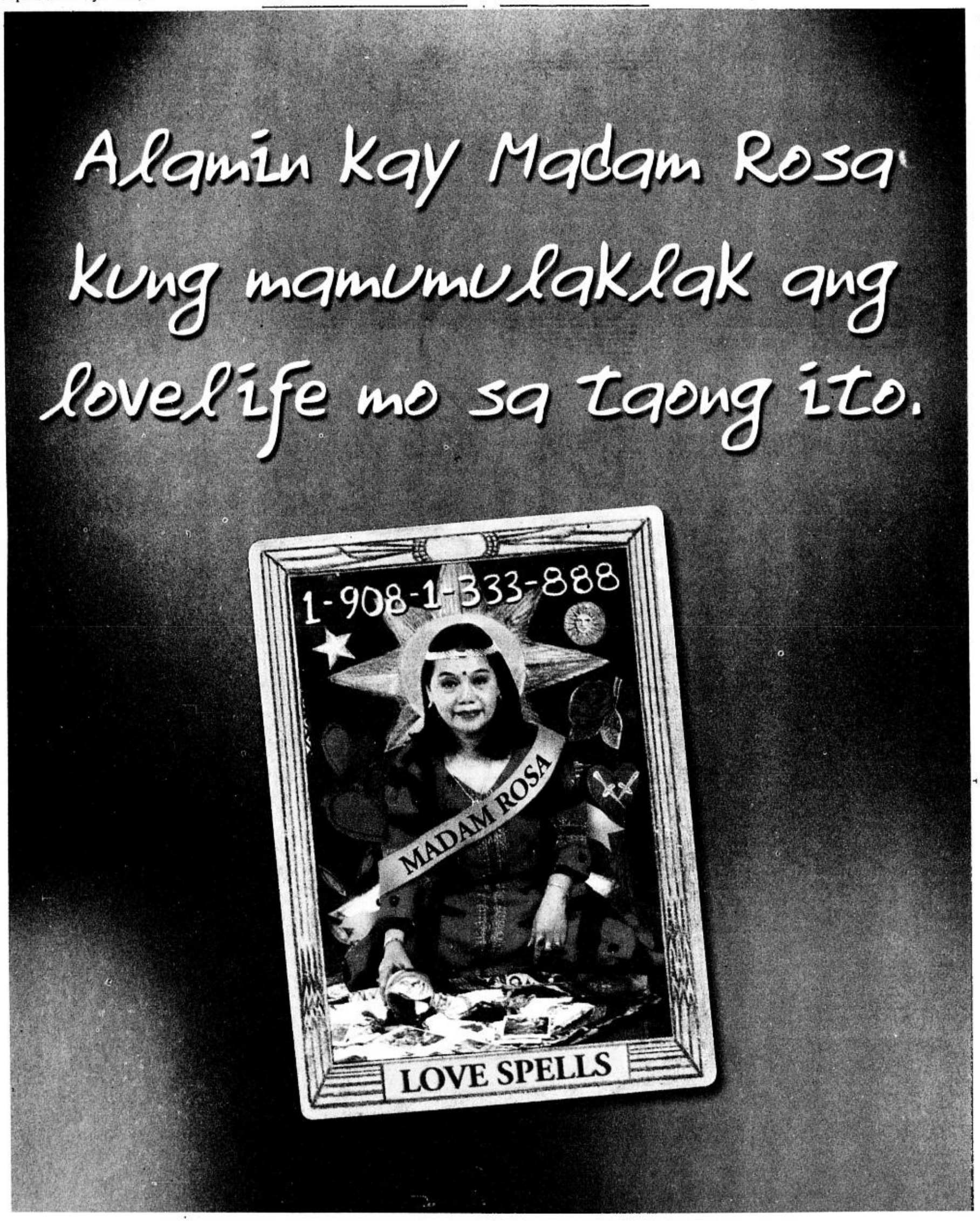
Pops' repertoire included a medley of the Corrs' hits. I ribbed her after the show that she now sang "All the Love in the World" with so much feeling, specifically the line "I'll reach for you and you'll know it's for sure, That I'll give all the love in the world."

Because I love Pops dearly and I understand her desire to preserve some semblance of privacy in her personal life, I won't elaborate on who that line is for. Suffice it to say that I couldn't be happier for my friend.

There's someone in her life who treats her wonderfully, who genuinely cares for her, and who is supportive enough of her endeavors to be present and enthusiastic every single night that she has performed.

Another favorite of mine from her show was her rendition of Five for Fighting's "Superman." This song contains poignant lyrics expressing how we're "looking for special things inside of me," that we should understand the fact that "even heroes have the right to bleed" and that "even heroes have the right to dream" and even a guy like Superman will feel that "it's not easy, to be me."

Pops succeeded in giving her audience all that a fabulous weekend should have — some quiet pondering, a lot of laughter, free-spirited romance, bonding with friends, and a celebration of just how wonderful life is, just as long as we let it.



TWO FOR THE MUSIC. Lea Salonga in a Broadway concert, with brother Gerard as musical director.

The Lea-Gerard tandem is back

MANILA'S concert crowd will be treated once more to a world-class performance by Lea and Gerard Salonga in a special two-night show, "Lea Salonga: The Broadway Concert," Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at the PICC Plenary Hall.

The concert will have Lea singing an all-Broadway repertoire culled from some of the hottest Broadway hits, under the musical direction of Gerard.

Stage director is Bobby Garcia, who brought Lea back to the Philippines through the play, "Proof." Writer is Uro de la Cruz.

Also joining Lea are special guests Michael de Mesa, Calvin Millado, Carlo Orosa and the 60-piece San Miguel Foundation Pop Orchestra.

After her successful portrayal as Mei-Li in the Los Angeles production of "Flower Drum Song," Lea returned to the country last month to headline the Manila production of David Auburn's award-winning stage drama, "Proof," which runs at the GSIS Theater until Jan. 27.

In "The Broadway Concert," Lea will render tunes like "Maybe" from "Annie" and a medley of Andrew Lloyd Weber songs like "I Don't Know How To Love Him" ("Jesus Christ Superstar"), "Unexpected Song" ("Song and Dance").

Also in the repertoire are "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" ("Evita"), "Someone Like You" ("Jekyll and Hyde"), "Fallin'" ("They're Playing Our Song"), "Love Look Away" ("Flower Drum Song"), "Too Much for One Heart" ("Miss Saigon"), "Maybe This Time" ("Cabaret"), "On My Own" ("Les Miserables"), "People" ("Funny Girl") and more.

"The Broadway Concert" is a project of Bayo. with the Sunday INQUIRER as the official media partner.

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Passage of 9 economic reform bills vowed

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE Development Advisory Council under the year-old Macapagal administration has vowed the passage into law within the term of the 12th Congress of at least nine free-market reforms to boost the domestic economy.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said that after the enactment last year of two landmark reforms—the Electric Industry Reform Act and the Anti-Money Laundering Act—the Ledac agreed, in a meeting in Malacañang late last week, to fast-track other crucial structural reforms.

The nine critical bills, Canlas said, would address five major concerns: the huge level of non-performing loans, shrinking government revenues, insufficient housing and infrastructure as well as slow countryside development.

The measures identified as a priority by the Ledac were:

- Securitization Act, which seeks to encourage public and private companies to borrow against a pool of existing assets and/or receivables;
- Special Purpose Vehicles Act, which will facilitate the setting up of asset management companies that will absorb the bad loans of the banking sector and free up liquidity for bank lending;
- Mass Housing Act;
- The indexation of sin taxes, such as the excise taxes on beer and cigarettes, to inflation so as to help generate more revenues to support housing;
- Corporate Recovery Act, which will likewise help in the financial restructuring of the corporate sector;
- Countryside and Barangay Business Enterprise Act;
- Removal of documentary stamp tax on secondary transactions to provide more liquidity to the capital markets;
- The Philippine Railway Modernization Act, and
- Amendments to the charter of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Commitment to these key structural reforms, Canlas said, would support the government's expectations of a better economic environment for this year.

"This year, growth is projected to gather strength, with gross domestic product to grow 4-4.5 percent. This projection hinges on a global economic recovery, particularly in the United States," he said.

In 2001, the country's GDP—or the total amount of goods and services produced by the local economy in a given year—was projected to have expanded by at least 3.3 percent.

Canlas said agriculture would likely grow by 2.7-3.7 percent this year, as the rehabilitation of irrigation facilities, along with other government projects, would temper the impact of a mild El Niño which could possibly occur in April to September.

Meanwhile, industry is projected to grow by 3.3-3.7 percent, with a rebound in exports allowing the manufacturing sector to post a growth of 3.3-3.6 percent.

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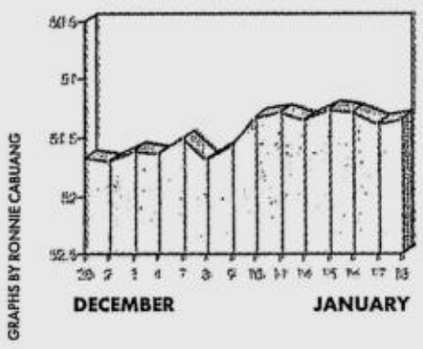
Peso-Dollar Rate

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

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CURRENCIES

Jan. 18, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.134945	1.000000	51.3490
Japan	Yen	0.008562	0.007544	0.3874
United Kingdom	Pound	1.629781	1.436000	73.7372
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145693	0.128370	6.5917
Switzerland	Franc	0.681280	0.600276	30.8236
Canada	Dollar	0.704585	0.620810	31.8780
Singapore	Dollar	0.618836	0.545256	27.9984
Australia	Dollar	0.582920	0.513611	26.3734
Bahrain	Dinar	3.010624	2.652661	136.2115
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303462	0.267380	13.7297
Brunei	Dollar	0.618161	0.544662	27.9678
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000109	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025877	0.022800	1.1708
UAE	Dirham	0.309081	0.272331	13.9839
Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000765	0.0393
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.881100	45.2436
Brazil	Real	0.464455	0.423729	21.7581
Denmark	Kroner	0.134541	0.118593	6.0896
India	Rupee	0.023165	0.020747	1.0653
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.294235	0.263227	13.5164
Mexico	New Peso	0.121262	0.109709	5.6334
New Zealand	Dollar	0.473665	0.422654	21.7029
Norway	Kroner	0.125699	0.111669	5.7341
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018679	0.016667	0.8558
South Africa	Rand	0.097808	0.087681	4.5023
Sweden	Kroner	0.108132	0.095374	4.8974
Syria	Pound	0.021877	0.022883	1.1750
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Gov't to pursue Malampaya 'securitization'

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT is going to push for the securitization this year of part of the earnings from the Malampaya natural gas project to raise at least $500 million and help plug a P130-billion budget deficit projected for 2002.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the Macapagal administration has received proposals from four investment banks to handle a bond issue to be backed by part of the $10 billion the government is expected to earn from the Malampaya project over the next 20 years.

The finance secretary said that the government was also expecting to generate royalty fees from the Malampaya consortium through the exploration arm of Philippine National Oil Co.

The proposals to securitize Malampaya's earnings came from ING, Lehman Brothers, Credit Lyonnaise and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

The investment banks, according to another finance official, proposed to raise at least $1 billion from the securitization but Camacho wanted to keep the target at only $500 million.

"The Malampaya securitization is one of the things we want to do this year to offset revenue items that may not come in," said the finance secretary.

Last year, the government also scouted for alternative sources of revenue to help fund the deficit.

A P10-billion remittance from the Philippine Estate Authority out of a planned sale of property to Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. was one of the options raised last year that could still come in this year.

The government was expected to have contained its budget deficit last year to P145 billion. The fiscal target was achieved due to a controlled spending and not because of strong revenue collection.

Camacho said the securitization plan for the Malampaya earnings was being handled by a team led by Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. and composed of finance and energy officials.

Before the Malampaya-backed borrowing could push through, Camacho said the government must first resolve the royalty-sharing agreement with the local government of Palawan.

It should also wait for the implementing rules of the Electricity Power Industry Reform Act to see if no provisions would conflict with the planned securitization.

The plan to raise funds backed by the government's earnings from Malampaya was raised last year. Camacho had said that the government wanted to borrow from the market against the earnings of Malampaya over the next five to seven years.

The Malampaya project is owned by the Royal-Dutch Shell group and US firm Texaco with a 45-percent stake each. State-run PNOC Exploration Corp. holds a 10-percent interest in the project. It started operating in the middle of 2001.

The consortium spent $2 billion to tap a field with 3.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Malampaya and put up an offshore, high-pressure gas pipeline from Palawan to Tabangao, Batangas.

The natural gas project is expected to fuel power plants that can generate 3,000 megawatts of electricity for 20 years. Malampaya gas would be sold to First Gas Power Corp., operator of the 1,000-mw Sta. Rita and 500-mw San Lorenzo project, starting this year.

The Malampaya consortium would also supply fuel to National Power Corp.'s 1,200-mw project in Ilijan, Batangas, under a turnkey arrangement with Korean firm Kepco Philippines Co.

BOI disputes Total's tax perks

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy and the Board of Investments are at loggerheads on whether TotalFinaElf Philippines Corp. is eligible for income tax breaks if the subsidiary of the French petroleum giant gets the fuel that it sells from rivals in the domestic market.

The DOE has endorsed Total's petition to get income tax holiday for purchases of petroleum products from domestic sources sold in the domestic market which it deemed as "common practice in the industry" even before the oil industry was deregulated in 1998.

Total has applied for the mandatory incentives under the Oil Deregulation Act, particularly the four-year income tax holiday, for its $20-million Bataan oil depot and terminal facility, and 10 storage tanks for the Manila depot in Tondo.

In a letter to the BOI, DOE officer-in-charge director Zenaida Y. Monsada said the DOE has continued to encourage this practice in the post-deregulation market to ensure continuous supply of petroleum products. Monsada said petroleum firms are allowed to purchase from a local supplier as long as this is the most technically and economically feasible source. Total has decided to buy its supplies from rivals locally because this was cheaper than importing directly the petroleum products overseas.

While this practice was allowed, it is unclear whether domestic purchases should be eligible for incentives from the BOI. Monsada said it was still the discretion of the BOI whether to include their sales of locally purchased products in their income tax holiday perks.

A BOI official said the agency was inclined to limit Total's income tax breaks on sales of petroleum that it directly imported from abroad and stockpiled in its storage facilities in Mariveles, Bataan. The official said the BOI's main concern was how to determine how much of Total's overall sales were obtained from abroad and stored in its 40,000-metric ton depot in Bataan.

The BOI official noted that the tax perks were granted to Total on the basis that it would engage in storage, distribution and marketing of petroleum products in the country. By not using its storage operations and engaging only in distribution and marketing, the official said Total did not pose any competition to the Big 3 and it was merely operating as a marketing firm.

It also negated the purpose of the fiscal perks, which is to encourage more competition in the industry. The official said the fiscal perks in the "Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998" were meant to attract new players in the industry that would provide stiffer competition to the Big 3—Pilipinas Shell, Caltex Philippines and Petron.

But Total stressed that competition was based not only on pricing but also on services offered by the industry players. Total said its service stations were built as a showcase of clean environment and the French flair for friendly service and style. Total has already put up 37 of its planned 100 stations nationwide.

Energy chief sees Shell IPO by year-end

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

ENERGY Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said last week that Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. could be expected to do an initial public offering by year's end.

"I think that (year-end) would be an ideal time for Pilipinas Shell to do an IPO," Perez said in an interview.

The secretary noted that the oil giant has seen signs of recovery in 2001, among which was an estimated P2.5 billion in net income.

"I feel that if the recovery of Shell were to continue this year, an IPO no later than the last quarter of this year is feasible," he said.

For its part, Pilipinas Shell had indicated moves to give last year's financial turnaround a follow through.

Outgoing Shell country chair Oscar Reyes said last month the firm's performance in 2001 indicated strength while maintaining that an IPO was mainly an issue of right timing.

Reyes said Shell was continually submitting reports to the energy department on Shell's assessment of conditions affecting the timing of its IPO.

"(Last year) was a challenging one for Shell and the year ahead would continue to be so but there would be bright spots," he said.

He also noted significant gains in fuel management services and closer customer relationship, specially quality accounts.

As a result, Shell's bottom line improved significantly compared with its poor performance in 2000 when it suffered a net loss of P1.1 billion.

Earlier last year, Reyes had noted that based on prevailing economic conditions, it was expected that a public offering at the time would not be successful both in terms of pricing and distribution.

"This may contribute to the further erosion of public confidence in the stock market and the prospects for our economic recovery."

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Binay's tax bite

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay has found a novel way to document and tax the considerable underground income of landlords and property owners within the country's premiere city.

Under a new ordinance, all property owners in Makati are now required to report their respective holdings and declare whether the said lands, houses, buildings, condominium units, apartments and even rooms are being leased to other parties.

In addition to the declaration, City Hall is requiring the property owners to attach a copy of the lease contract covering each and every property rented. Moreover, the declaration has to be notarized.

The new reportorial requirements, spelled out in City Ordinance 2001-108, gives the landowners the first 20 days of January, or until yesterday, to file the declaration without the threat of a penalty.

Passed only last Dec. 6 during a special session, the new ordinance caught a number of building and homeowners unaware.

Two building administrators in Legaspi Village and a Dasmariñas Village resident told Cocktales they received copies of the new ordinance and the survey form only last Thursday.

Since this is the first time that the ordinance is being implemented, City Hall has extended the submission of the lease contracts up to the last working day of March, said Binay spokesperson Lito Anzures.

BIR elated

THE NEW Makati ordinance, which aims to widen the city's tax base, would flush out previously undocumented real estate income and subject them to Makati's lessors tax, which is equivalent up to a maximum of three-fourths of one percent of the property's yearly gross revenues.

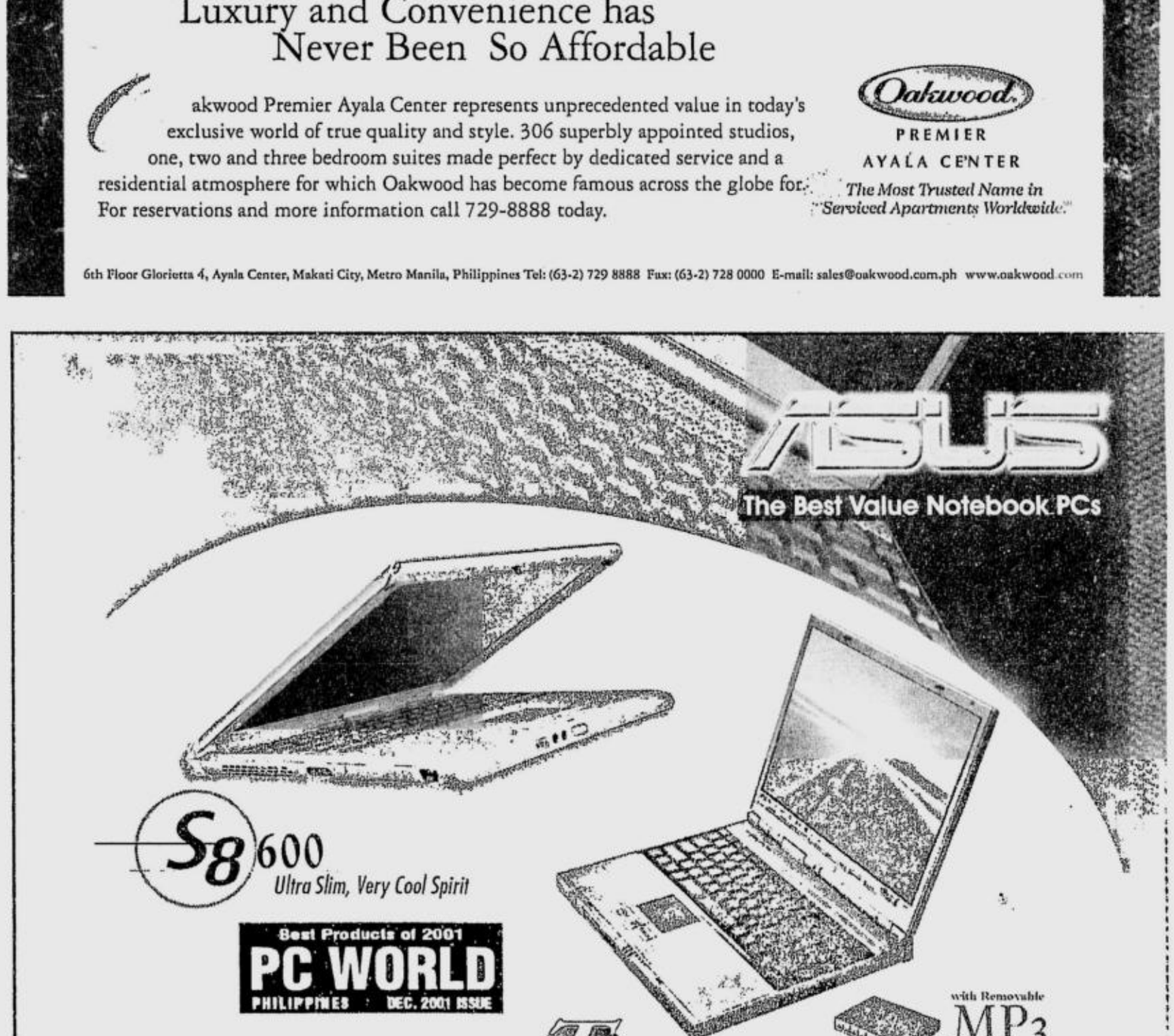
It was not immediately clear how the targeted property owners responded to the Makati law, the first of its kind in the country. The ordinance imposes a fine of only P5,000 for every non-compliance, and a 15-day imprisonment or a P5,000 fine for the third violation.

Still, Commissioner Rene Bañez of the Bureau of Internal Revenue expressed elation over the Binay-inspired move.

Bañez recalled that during the Aquino years, then BIR Commissioner Jose Ong was foiled by a court-issued TRO from obtaining copies of homeowners' lists from Makati's exclusive villages and condominiums.

Bañez said he would ask the Makati government, through the Department of Interior and Local Government, a copy of the survey results so the BIR could compare the lease declarations with the income tax declarations of the property owners.

COCKTALES/ B6



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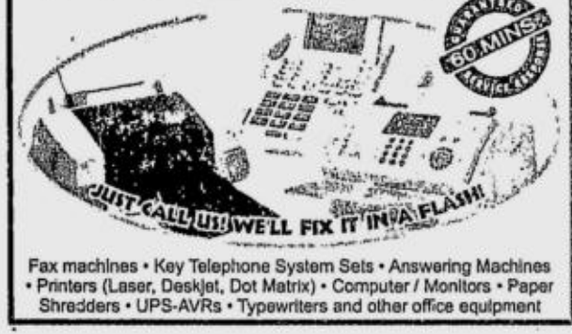

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Tariff freeze on consumer products sought

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

AFTER getting President Macapagal-Arroyo's nod to slash the duties on their raw materials, local manufacturers are again knocking on Malacañang's doors this time pleading to freeze the duties on competing imported industrial and consumer products for the second straight year this year.

The Federation of Philippine Industries reminded President Macapagal of the commitment she made during the Economic Summit last year to maintain tariffs at 2001 levels while the economic reforms are being implemented.

The FPI reiterated that the country has already cut its average applied tariff rates on agricultural and industrial products from 28 percent and 14 percent, respectively, in 1995 to 14 percent and 17 percent last year. It said the country was already way ahead of its peers in the World Trade Organization in terms of its tariff reduction schedule. The Uruguay Round requires members to cut tariffs on all tradable products to at least 33 percent.

The FPI noted that the tariffs on industrial and consumer goods should be kept at their present levels because these were already lower than those of its Asean neighbors. The average tariff on industrial products in the Philippines is 9.1 percent compared to Thailand's 43.7 percent, Indonesia's 14.9 percent and Malaysia's 9.4 percent.

The FPI also cited the expected foregone revenues from the tariff cuts to justify its petition. It said that the government would lose P2.5 billion from the scheduled reduction in duties on 355 tariff lines this year.

The products lined up for tariff reduction this year included heaters, refrigerators, freezers and air-conditioners; matches and cigarette lighters; shampoos, soaps and detergent products; plastic and rubber products; coconut and palm oil; beer; plywood and other wood products; newsprint, specialty paper, and carton boxes; tanks, casks and drums; natural and man-made fibers; fabrics; aluminum and iron or steel products; footwear; float glass, and military weapons.

Ironically, the government's move to cut the duties on raw materials not locally produced in the country from 3 percent to one percent, which was also pushed by the FPI, is expected to cost the government at least P800 million in foregone revenues yearly. The President is expected to sign two executive orders implementing the tariff cut within this month.

The FPI had successfully lobbied for a freeze on tariff cuts last year and it is hoping that the government would continue to maintain the current rates for another year. It said the Cabinet committee on Tariff and Related Matters should start holding public hearings on petitions for a tariff freeze this year.

Further cuts in BSP rates seen this year

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said that with an improving inflation outlook, it could further reduce its policy rates by one percentage point within the year. This will bring down the BSP's overnight borrowing rate to 6.5 percent, which would be the lowest in more than a decade, and the lending rate to 8.75 percent.

"If the government will scale down its inflation target this year to a range of 4 to 5 percent, we will have ample room to further cut our rates," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The BSP has reduced its policy rates 17 times since December 2000 shedding a total of 7.5 percentage points from the October 2000 levels.

The latest cut was implemented last Friday when the BSP's policy rates were reduced by a quarter-of-a-percentage point to 7.5 percent for overnight borrowing and 9.75 percent for overnight lending.

The National Economic and Development Authority is planning to propose a downward adjustment in the government's inflation target this year from a range of 5 to 6 percent to 4 to 5 percent.

Buenaventura said that with the original inflation target, the central bank was working on a plan to reduce overnight rates by a maximum of half-a-percentage point. A reduction in the inflation target, he said, would allow the BSP to cut its rates by as much as one percentage point.

Indications that the US Federal Reserve may cut its short-term interest rates by another half-a-percentage-point this year may also influence the BSP move, said Buenaventura.

Banks may still foreclose on NSC assets, says SEC

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission said it would allow creditor banks of National Steel Corp. to foreclose on the assets of the steel company if they could pay about P1 billion in various fees, including filing fees and documentary stamp tax.

"If they want to foreclose (on NSC's assets), we have no objection," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said on Friday.

Bautista said the SEC had given the creditor banks the option "to foreclose but they didn't want to, so the SEC ordered NSC's liquidation."

President Macapagal-Arroyo is reportedly supporting the foreclosure of the steel company.

Should banks opt to foreclose on NSC, they would also have to raise from the sale of NSC assets enough money to pay the retirement benefits of the workers amounting to P700 million and the back taxes worth another P1 billion.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II earlier said that a team of government officials and representatives from various banks would go to Kuala Lumpur this week to seek the consent of Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd. for a write-down of its exposure in the steel company amounting to $800 million.

Roxas said the Philippine team would discuss a more "permanent solution" to the liquidation of Danaharta's 80-percent stake in NSC, which has been closed for the last two years. Discussions might involve a write-down (of Danaharta's exposure) or a debt-to-equity conversion, he added.

Roxas is head of the evaluation team that is studying lease proposals for NSC. The lease arrangement will allow the reoperation of the steel company while the government is looking for long-term investors.

The groups that submitted lease proposals were Voest Alpines of Austria, Allengoal Steel Trading and Fabrication Corp. and Cathay Pacific Steel Co.

NSC has liabilities amounting to P19.1 billion, of which P9.59 billion was owed to secured creditors and P6.38 billion to other bank creditors. NSC also owes P1.7 billion to the government, P675 million to NSC employees and P811 million to other creditors.

Lenny Villa was not the only victim

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

ANTONIO "Butch" General, one of those acquitted by the Court of Appeals in the Lenny Villa case, is my nephew, the eldest son of my late younger brother Eusebio. On Sunday, after he was set free, Butch was at my house for lunch. He had a copy of the decision.

The court boiled down the case to whether or not (a) the accused were engaged in a criminal conspiracy in conducting the initiation rites of the Aquila Legis Fraternity that resulted in the death of Lenny Villa, (b) the criminal liability of the accused, if any, should be individual and not collective, (c) the injuries which caused the death of Lenny Villa were inflicted by only two of the accused, and (d) the consent of the victim is a valid defense.

On (a), the court said: "A conspiracy exists when two or more persons come to an agreement concerning the commission of a felony and decide to commit it . . . Conspiracy, to be the basis for a conviction should be proven as clearly and convincingly as the commission of the crime itself. No less than proof beyond reasonable doubt is required. It is also essential that a conscious design to commit an offense must be established. Conspiracy is not a product of negligence but intention on the part of the cohorts.

"After a careful review of the facts of the case, it is our view and we so hold that no conspiracy was sufficiently proven from the evidence presented by the prosecution."

On (b) the court said: "The beatings delivered by appellants Dizon and Villareal were marked by excessive violence and clearly overstepped the parameters established by the fraternity to insure safe initiation . . . the evidence on this matter is unrebutted and so for the death of Villa, appellants Dizon and Villareal must and should face the consequence of their acts, that is, to be held liable for the crime of homicide . . ."

"Based on the medical findings, it would appear that with the exclusion of the fatal wounds inflicted by the accused Dizon and Villareal, the injuries sustained by the victim as a result of the physical punishment heaped on him were serious in nature. However, by reason of the death of the victim, there can be no precise means to determine the duration of the incapacity or the medical attendance required. To do so, at this stage would be merely speculative. In a prosecution for this crime where the category of the offense and the severity of the penalty depend on the period of illness or incapacity for labor, the length of this period must likewise be proven beyond reasonable doubt in much the same manner as the act charged. And when the proof of the said is absent, the crime committed should be deemed only as slight physical injuries.

"In the absence of concrete evidence pointing to the individual liability of the other appellants insofar as the victim Villa is concerned, this court holds that they should be exonerated on the ground of reasonable doubt."

On (d), the court said: "There is no doubt that Lenny Villa and the other neophytes consented to participate in the initiation rites. In fact, Villa even had the expressed consent of his parents. Thus, **insofar as the traditional or accepted forms of hazing or initiation or those sanctioned by the rules of the fraternity are concerned, the neophytes' consent can very well be considered as a valid defense . . . Of course, any hazing which would seriously injure, which in this context should be taken to mean such injuries that would incapacitate the neophyte for more than one week, or which results to death should be considered as exceeding the consent given." (emphasis mine)**

With three semesters to go, Butch dropped out of law school five years before the tragedy. But he was invited to the initiation. He went to the Almeda compound on the second day at about 5 p.m. He stayed about half an hour. He left hours before the end of the rites.

Afterward, and especially upon conviction by the lower court, he could not find a steady job. He, and the 18 others acquitted, were also victims of the tragedy. By the way, the first batch of fiscals wanted to exclude all 19 from the case. The fiscals were changed and all of them were back on the charge sheet.

But Butch is not bitter, and his Catholic faith remains strong and steadfast. He is now bent on finishing his law studies. He will make a fine lawyer.

Finally, the Ateneo de Manila University Law School should carry a large portion of the guilt. At the very least, the dean should have been brought to justice for gross negligence.

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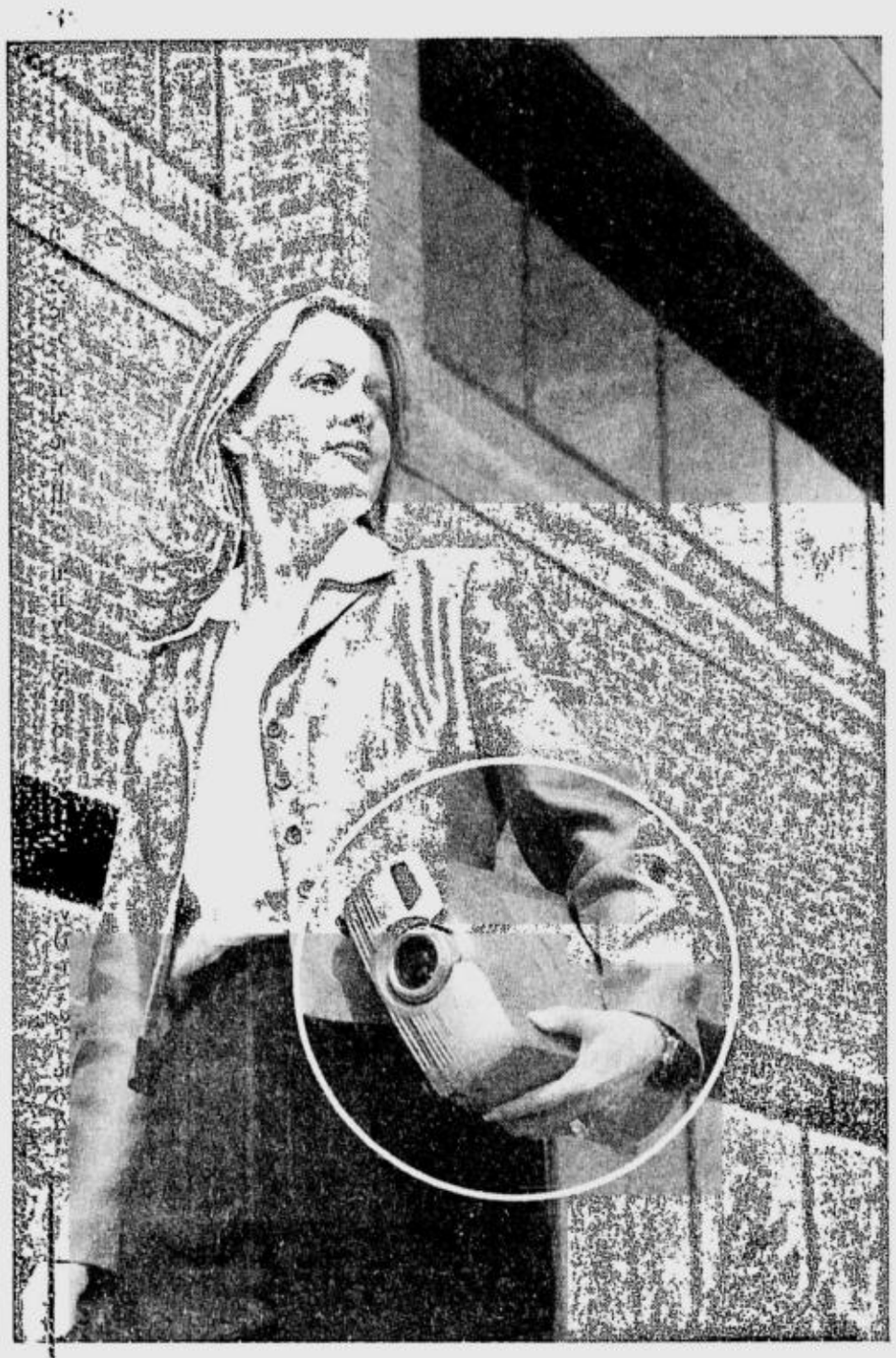

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IBANK BRANCH NETWORK EXPANSION

International Exchange Bank (iBank) president Ramon Sy (right) explains to (from left) Valenzuela City Vice Mayor Tony Espiritu and Councilor Sonny Tiquia the branch network expansion program of the bank during the inauguration of iBank Malinta branch as the bank's executive vice president, Nilo Pacheco, looks on. The bank has 60 branches nationwide and is set to inaugurate five new branches in the first quarter of 2002.

Alvarez tells Cebu Pacific, PAL to split Sokor flights

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said Friday Philippine Airlines Inc. and Cebu Pacific Air should resolve between themselves a dispute over additional flights granted by South Korea to the Philippines.

"Maybe PAL and Cebu Pacific could sit down and talk before facing the (Civil Aeronautics Board) again," Alvarez told the INQUIRER.

"Maybe they could arrive at a compromise and just split the four additional entitlements," he added.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Cebu Pacific, a company owned by the family of retail tycoon John Gokongwei Jr., insisted that it had a "perfected and vested right in the frequencies to South Korea, and these cannot be taken away and given to PAL without due process."

The airline also warned that should its flight allocations be transferred to PAL, it would be exposed to lawsuits since it had already executed contracts with companies in South Korea in preparation for its scheduled services in March.

The CAB awarded Cebu Pacific three weekly flights to South Korea on Dec. 19.

On Jan. 14, however, the board lent PAL, a company controlled by beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, two of these frequencies. The allocations were lent on condition that Cebu Pacific would have them back before it mounted its Manila-Seoul flights on March 2.

In a letter to his fellow board members, CAB member Alberto Lim disclosed that the CAB gave the entitlements to PAL without consulting Cebu Pacific.

"Since the board already granted the three RP-Korea frequency entitlements to another carrier, Cebu Pacific Air, and we were being requested to provisionally lend two of the three frequency entitlements for a limited period (while the grantee is still not using it), it is proper that we advise the rightful owner, Cebu Pacific, of this temporary loan to PAL," Lim said in his letter.

In recent weeks, a new problem arose after PAL refused to return the Cebu Pacific allocations lent to it by the CAB.

Cebu Pacific warned that should the CAB yield to PAL, its remaining once-a-week service would not be viable and could force it to quit the route.

On the other hand, PAL, which already had 13 frequencies, would have 15 weekly flights to South Korea and once again be the lone Philippine flag carrier along this route, it said.

Cebu Pacific also recalled that PAL opposed talks between Manila and Seoul in November that led to the new frequencies. "It would be most unfair to give to PAL what it opposed initially and what Cebu Pacific worked hard for," it said.

It added that "reversals of effective grants by the board would present an environment of vacillation and discourage domestic entrants into the aviation industry."

Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap has assured Cebu Pacific that PAL will not get its two South Korea entitlements.

"We will definitely not reverse our previous decision. It was clearly stated in the resolution that the granting of the two allocations to PAL is only temporary. All the borrowed entitlements will go back to Cebu Pacific on March 2," he stressed.

Yap added that PAL would be given an additional Korea frequency, but it could not touch the three that already belonged to its rival carrier.

"The three entitlements are already Cebu Pacific's. The other entitlement which will be given in April will go to PAL. It already has 13 frequency entitlements. It should give way to the new player," he said.

He also said PAL knew and understood that it only "borrowed" Cebu Pacific's two frequency entitlements.

"PAL knows that it's only temporary. I assured (Cebu Pacific vice president) Peggy Vera that they will get their entitlements back by March 2," he said.

Alvarez, the transportation secretary, however, took PAL's side.

"The grandfather's rule applies," he said. "PAL already invested heavily to develop the Cebu-Korea route. It would be fair if they could do an equal split."

Gov't urged to sell stake in PNOC unit

THE PHILIPPINE Petroleum Sea Transport Association (Philpesta) has urged the government to divest of and privatize its stake in Philippine National Oil Corp. subsidiary, PNOC Shipping and Transport Corp. (PSTC).

Philpesta said in a statement that the continued operation of PSTC as a government corporation was inconsistent with the Macapagal administration's privatization policy which the President stressed in her speech during the 27th Philippine Business Conference.

"The business of the government is governance and the business of business is business," Philpesta quoted President Macapagal as saying during the conference.

Philpesta's mother organization, the Philippine Interisland Shipping Association (PISA), added that if PSTC would not be privatized, it might as well "wind down its operations as soon as practicable."

PISA president Doris Magsaysay-Ho said the private sector could already meet the petroleum industry's present demand for sea transport, including PSTC's 7-percent share of the market.

"The direct participation of the government in business can be justified only if the private sector is unwilling or unable to provide the necessary goods or services. In our case, the domestic petroleum shipping industry has proven itself to be capable of sufficiently serving the distribution requirements of the oil industry," Philpesta said in a position paper.

The group also bucked PSTC's plans to acquire new vessels to augment its operations.

"PSTC's plan to acquire new vessels will only aggravate the surplus tonnage problem of the industry," it said.

It added that the problem of excess tonnage had been in existence since 1995, and that at least seven tanker vessels have remained idle in the past six years.

PSTC's plan to acquire at least four additional vessels forms part of a strategy to revitalize its operations in preparation for its eventual privatization.

Philpesta admitted that the government-owned company did recognize the government's thrust toward privatization, but "it has nevertheless proposed to indefinitely defer the process, citing the need to make PSTC healthy first before turning it over to the private sector." *Abigail Ho*

Slump in banana prices seen to trim Lapanday earnings

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

FRESH produce exporter Lapanday Foods Corp. is expected to miss its revenue target for 2001 due to a slump in banana prices in the world market.

Lapanday Holdings Corp. chief executive officer and chair Luis Lorenzo Jr. told the INQUIRER on Friday that Lapanday Foods' export revenues in 2001 were expected to hit only $180 million, or $10 million off its target of $200 million. This, however, is still higher than the export revenues in 2000 of $170 million.

Lorenzo said a glut in the world market supply of bananas, Lapanday's principal export product, resulted in a 5- to- 8-percent drop in world market prices.

Despite the lower-than-projected export revenues, Lapanday is expected to post a margin of $10 million last year, higher than the previous year's $7 million, largely due to its market and product diversification strategy.

Lapanday Foods became known for its fresh cavendish bananas which were exported mainly to Japan.

In line with its diversification strategy, the company tapped other markets that now include South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand and the Middle East.

It also diversified into the exportation of other banana varieties including lacatan, señorita, lady fingers and red bananas under various brand names. It also started exporting fresh pineapple and vegetables for Del Monte Pacific Ltd. It has, likewise, diversified into the export production of fresh mango.

The Philippine banana industry ranks fourth—next to Ecuador, Costa Rica and Panama—in terms of growth in the volume of banana exports.

Lorenzo said the local banana industry last year grew by about 4 percent.

"We have even overtaken Columbia (a major supplier) in terms of growth."

He said the company was planning to enter new markets for its fresh mango produce. Lapanday Foods made an initial shipment of 550 kilograms of Guimaras mangoes to Australia in May 2001.

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Foreign fund inflow seen to sustain stock rebound

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

AFTER posting its biggest weekly gain since the ouster of President Estrada a year ago, the local stock market is expected to continue its upbeat trading this week as fresh liquidity from foreign inflow trickles down to more issues.

Finally shrugging off jitters from destabilization plots against the Macapagal administration, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index surged 5.53 percent last week to close at 1,257.48 on Friday, breaching a major resistance level at 1,250.

MARKET PLAY

DBS Vickers Ballas associate director for sales Enrique Sta. Ana said the run-up could be sustained this week as renewed foreign buying had buoyed the market and improved value turnover.

"The indication is that there could be follow-through buying, and 1,280 could be a pretty good target," Sta. Ana said.

The positive response to the $750 million global bond offering last week, he said, has put the Philippines back on investors' radar screens.

The market was also cheered last week by expectations that the Philippines' domestic economy had grown by at least 3.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2001, thus meeting the government's 3.3-percent full-year target.

Sta. Ana also said there was some perception that the deployment of US troops in the country could be a solution to the worsening terrorist problems in Mindanao and would likely boost the influx of US portfolio funds.

Should the daily value turnout—less the cross and block sales—return to the P1-billion level, Sta. Ana said it would be the best gauge that the local stock market, which has been battered since the 1997 Asian financial crisis, was firmly back on the road to recovery.

He said blue-chip stocks that had been sold down, such as Meralco, Ayala Land, Ayala Corp., would likely be the ones to lead the rebound. But as the shares of blue chips become more expensive, he said selected second-liners would also generate some interest.

Irving Ackerman, president of I. Ackerman & Co., said the local bourse was beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

"Every one is walking with big smiles on their faces. Hopefully, it will last for sometime. The market still has a lot of strength," Ackerman said.

"Our market has been neglected for so long but now suddenly, foreign funds are going back. Also, interest rates are going down and that should help businesses back on track. So the picture looks a little bit better," Ackerman said.

However, Ackerman said he hoped that the market would not go up too fast but instead rise gradually so that it could build a sustainable base.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas agreed that the market would remain bullish this week. There would be some corrections, he said, but these would not likely be too deep so as to dampen the upbeat mood in the market.

"The foreign investors which came in last week bought from the locals. So the local investors have money which they can invest," he said.

Roxas said the next technical resistance levels were at 1,280 and 1,300.

"If every other market in the world is trading above its level before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, I see no reason why we shouldn't be," Roxas said.

Stock market portal Philstocks.net said an ideal scenario would be for the market to correct and consolidate between the 1,150 and 1,250 levels before resuming its uptrend.

"This will just be a pause amid a longer sustainable advance. The index may have broken out of the 1,250 major resistance level, but it is not yet clearly on the loose. Its technical indicators are already at extremely overbought levels and are showing mixed signals. Since we are cautious of the market's overbought condition, we are advising investors not to extend themselves too much," it said.

Cocktales . . .

(From page B3)

Like the national government and the BIR, Binay is hard-pressed to raise revenues over allegations that the new, imposing City Hall that Binay built has exceeded the original cost estimate by a mile.

In addition to the property registration requirement, Makati also this year increased its real estate tax rates by 25-30 percent.

Binay justified the real estate tax increase, enacted despite the continued record vacancies in office and home rental business, by saying it was the first increase since 1992.

Another tax increase, this time for business taxes, has been held in abeyance by City Hall pending the holding of more public hearings.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines has threatened Makati that member-bank headquarters would relocate to The Fort in Taguig and elsewhere should City Hall continue with its plan to impose "excessive" business taxes.

Heard through the grapevine

AN auto-repair insurance claim syndicate that used the Bacoor branch of Asiatrust Bank to encash the fraudulent checks apparently victimized two other leading insurance companies as well.

FGU Insurance and Standard Insurance have indicated their willingness to join the whistleblower, Fortune Insurance, in a class suit being prepared by Fortune against Asiatrust.

FGU has even engaged the services of the Accra law offices to see if a plunder case could be filed against the erring bank personnel, an indication that the amounts lost in the scam would top P50 million.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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Makati Sports Club "A"	-	300,000
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Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	13,000,000
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Manila Polo	2,590,000	Manila Southwoods "A"	630,000
Makati Sports "A"/B	280,000/280,000	Manila Southwoods "B"	750,000
Orchard "A"	220,000	Mt. Malarayat "A"/C	350,000/600,000
Quezon City Sports	210,000	Orchard A/B/C	200/280/350
Rockwell Club	380,000	Quezon City Sports	210,000
Tagaytay Hland Club/Golf	358,000/795	Riviera "A/B"	190,000/260,000
Valley Golf	229,000	Punta Fuego	500,000
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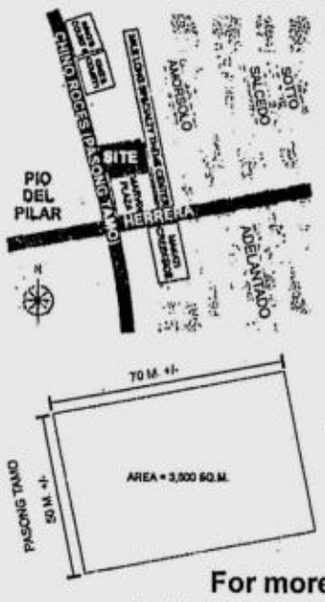

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, January 18, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	3,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	60.5	58.5	60.5	660,500
Citystate Savings Bank	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	25.5	28	25.5	28	2,499,500
First E-Bank Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	23,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	199	204	199	203	95,610
Philippine National Bank	64	64.5	64	64.5	43,600
Phil. Savings Bank	27	28	27	28	2,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13.5	13	13.5	23,300
Security Bank Corp.	17	17.5	17	17.5	66,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.75	16.25	15.75	16.25	286,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	160,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	170,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1035	1030	1035	1,710
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	26	28	26	28	28,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.45	8,180,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	665	665	33,410
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	250,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	5,000
Piltel	0.35	0.35	0.3	0.31	2,450,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	250,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	420	445	420	445	167,800
Ivantage Corporation	0.47	0.56	0.47	0.5	420,000
Philweb.Com, Inc.	0.019	0.021	0.019	0.021	244,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	23.75	24.5	23.5	24.25	102,300
Manila Electric Co. "B"	32	34.5	32	34.5	2,924,200
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.82	1.72	1.78	19,421,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.9	2.75	2.85	3,107,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.31	120,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	540,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	8,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.9	180,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	120,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	2,635,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	349,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24.25	24	24.25	35,200
RFM Corp.	2.34	2.4	2.34	2.38	3,012,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	44	44.5	44	44.5	98,300
San Miguel Corp. "B"	54	56	54	56	177,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1,840,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.68	0.72	0.68	0.72	150,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.69	30,000
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.7	27,135,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.62	1.54	1.62	1,067,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	1,600
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.87	0.82	0.87	780,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	70,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	202,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	160,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.56	0.58	21,540,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	40,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.19	0.21	700,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.21	0.23	12,800,000
Ebecorn Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.12	1.02	1.1	6,420,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	203,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Ionics Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.3	83,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.54	313,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.24	1.32	1.24	1.32	420,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. "A"	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	14,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.75	0.78	7,300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.32	0.33	12,660,000
Music Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.28	11,940,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	2,000,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. "B"	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	810,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	40,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.07	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.195	0.18	0.195	5,230,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.33	0.4	0.33	0.4	350,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.32	3,700,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. "A"	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.65	80,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.47	0.43	0.45	6,850,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.51	300,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	420,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	4,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	26.5	28.5	26.5	28	631,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.9	486,000
Globe Tel. "A" - Warrants	410	410	407.5	407.5	1,530
Omico Corporation Warrant	0.0016	0.0016	0.0014	0.0014	221,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	9,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	7,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series "A"	10	10	10	10	900
Philweb.Com. Inc -Warrants	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	229,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	13,441,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.17	0.19	700,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.26	3,020,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.45	0.48	0.45	0.48	17,020,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	17,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.38	2.55	2.38	2.55	28,623,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	140,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.07	0.075	0.07	0.075	300,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.06	0.085	0.06	0.085	300,000
SM Development Corp.	0.94	0.98	0.94	0.98	150,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	9,560,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.08	0.0825	0.08	0.0825	2,200,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.004	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.65	2.75	2.65	2.75	14,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "A"	0.027	0.028	0.026	0.028	26,700,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. "A"	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	780,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co "B"	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,050,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0044	0.0038	0.0038	75,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	7,300,000
Philex Mining Corp. "B"	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	600,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	22,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "B"	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	6,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.06	0.07	0.055	0.07	700,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000

Former PSE head seeks proxies for March polls

OUSTED Philippine Stock Exchange president Ramon T. Garcia and former PSE chair Robert Coyiuto have launched a proxy campaign for control of the 15-member PSE board during the bourse's annual elections this March.

Another incumbent PSE director, Eddie Gobing, has likewise joined the Coyuito-led slate, where Garcia will run as a non-broker candidate.

It is not yet known whether the incumbent officials led by PSE chair Felipe Yap, would seek reelection, but Coyuito's slate has started soliciting proxies from the PSE member-brokers/stockholders.

The incumbent PSE board lost a lot of support from the membership over the sacking of Garcia. At the time that Garcia accepted a compromise and dropped his plan to elevate the issue of his ouster to the membership, he had solicited enough proxies from the 185 member-brokers to call for a membership/stockholders' meeting and contest his ouster.

"Having survived the recent controversies surrounding my ouster as PSE president, I gained some very valuable and yes, truly humbling lessons that no other member of the PSE board, whether past or present, had the privilege of learning from," Garcia said in a letter to stockholders.

Garcia also stressed it was the PSE's interest he had in mind when he entered into the compromise with Yap's group to step down from the presidency amid the Fort Bonifacio relocation row with the Metro Pacific group.

When the board voted him out due to loss of confidence after a heated word war with MPC chair and fellow non-broker director Manuel Pangilinan, Coyiuto, Garcia's major ally, was not present. Only Gobing, which has now joined his proxy bid, voted to support Garcia.

"I thought it best to just cooperate rather than confront my accusers in an effort to avert any further damage to an exchange that already had far too much of its share of controversies, problems and challenges," Garcia said.

But the corporate squabble within the PSE was averted when Garcia agreed to drop any further legal actions. In exchange, the board decided to reinstall him, albeit only in title, as he was forced to go on leave for the duration of his term. Garcia remained president and a non-broker board member until a replacement—former Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Ernest Leung—was named and the board agreed to give him the benefits and compensation until March when his original term was supposed to expire.

"It is with this same conviction that I appeal to you now to kindly consider my bid for reelection to the PSE board as a non-broker director," Garcia said. "There were many plans I had set out to complete as PSE president, much of our effort focused on restoring investor confidence and painting a more enticing investment picture." *Doris C. Dumlao*

Gov't to revise economic targets–Camacho

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT may decide to revise its economic targets, including the gross domestic product level, on assumptions that inflation will be a percentage point lower than earlier forecast by year's end, according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

On Friday, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas disclosed that the government was considering revising its inflation forecast to a range of 4 to 5 percent from an earlier target of 5 to 6 percent.

Camacho said should this revision push through, the government's other economic targets would have to be similarly adjusted to reflect higher GDP growth.

GDP refers to the total final value of all goods produced and services rendered in a nation's economy over a given period of time, usually a year, minus foreign income. It is the primary indicator of the state of the economy.

Inflation refers to a sustained increase in prices, which results in a decrease in the purchasing power of money.

Camacho agreed with Canlas that there was room to lower the government's inflation target, citing an improved economic performance in the last quarter.

The Macapagal administration's economic managers said earlier GDP growth probably hit 3.7 percent in the fourth quarter of last year and that growth for all of 2001 probably reached 3.3 percent.

"A lower inflation rate would help push consumption up, spur economic activity and help bring domestic interest rates down. It would help promote economic growth," Camacho said.

The government has forecast GDP growth of 4 to 4.5 percent this year.

Camacho said lower interest rates would also have an impact on growth.

Lower interest rates will bring down the cost of the government's debt servicing, the finance chief explained.

The government's cost of borrowing has gone down with the steep fall in treasury bill rates. Even the yield of tenors maturing in a year has dropped to a single digit, while the rate of the benchmark 91-day T-bill has fallen in previous auctions.

Deficit seen slightly exceeding estimates

THE GOVERNMENT exceeded slightly its budget deficit target last year, according to preliminary numbers that showed the level probably reached P146.9 billion, nearly P2 billion more than what was intended.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the Bureau of Internal Revenue's and Bureau of Customs' tax collections were falling short by about P2 billion of their combined target of P493 billion.

BIR Commissioner Rene Banez stressed, however, that as of last week, the shortfall in the bureau's collection had slid to only P1.3 billion from P2.74 billion a week earlier. There was a chance that the BIR could still meet its target, he said.

Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva explained that part of the BOC's shortfall was the import tariff that other government agencies had to pay. The Department of Budget and Management, however, had yet to release funds to cover these payments as it wanted to keep a lid on spending and disbursement, he said.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has announced that the government will determine the final deficit figure on Wednesday.

He assured that although the government might miss its target by P2 billion, that would not discourage foreign investors from returning to the Philippines.

The government was still reconciling its numbers as of Friday, he disclosed.

Market sources agreed that a budget deficit that was slightly higher than estimated would have little impact because the government had proven that in the face of a deficit, it could maintain fiscal discipline by spending very modestly.

"What's a few millions or billions compared to their previous performance?" an official from a local bank, who spoke on condition of anonymity, asked.

In 2000, the government posted a deficit of P136.1 billion against a target of P62.5 billion. The failure to keep the deficit in check forced the International Monetary Fund to cancel the last portion of a loan program it had for the Philippines.

Clarissa S. Batino

Foreign mining firms open to 50-50 equity

MINING firms abroad are willing to compromise and settle for a 50-percent ownership of local mining projects to put the mining industry in order, according to the Philippine Mineral Exploration Association.

In an interview last week, PMEA president Tony Robbins said such a compromise should settle an ongoing policy dispute that had discouraged some foreign investors from coming to the Philippines.

PMEA represents foreign and local mining and exploration companies in the country.

Environmental groups have questioned the Philippine mining law's constitutionality, as it allows foreigners to own 100 percent of local mining projects.

The Supreme Court has yet to rule on this issue.

Robbins, who is also managing director of mining and exploration company Indophil Resources NL, told reporters that a 50-50 partnership scheme could work.

Foreign firms usually brought with them "the technological expertise and the financing while the local companies have the knowledge on how to do business in this country and how to establish a good community relationship," he said.

Robbins said the country's mining law, approved in 1995, "has caused lot of uncertainties."

"In 1995, when the law was passed, there were 50 companies interested to do business here, but now there are only eight to 10 foreign firms that have remained persistent with their projects," he said.

The Philippines easily lost some $50 million to $60 million in new investments with this development as these companies were willing to shell out some $1 million to $2 million for mine exploration alone, Robbins said.

Firms seek permanent cover for cement firms

LOCAL suppliers of the country's biggest cement companies have asked the government to put in place measures that will give the local cement industry a permanent cover against imports.

In separate letters to the Tariff Commission, several companies supplying raw materials, equipment and manpower disclosed that they had to trim their workforce last year when orders from local cement manufacturers plunged after imports took a sizable slice of the domestic market.

They said while a provisional tariff granted late last year by the government provided the cement industry a temporary relief, a "final definitive safeguard measure is needed to level the playing field."

In November last year, the Department of Trade and Industry slapped a 200-day provisional tariff of P20.60 per 40-kilogram bag of imported cement. The Tariff Commission will decide whether to make this permanent or not.

The suppliers said the local cement industry had yet to really recover.

"Under present market conditions, our company suffers with the industries we cater to. It will also be catastrophic for us if the cement industry, which comprises 60 percent of our total business, will collapse due to the unabated entry of imported cement," Antonio Jorolan, president of Refratrade Industrial Resources Inc., a supplier of refractory materials, said in a letter to the Tariff Commission.

In a separate letter, Charlie Ang, president of Tiger Machinery & Industrial Corp., which operates a machine shop and a foundry, informed the Tariff Commission that it cut its workforce from 230 to 185 in 1998 because of the unfair competition leveled on the country's cement companies by importers.

Cement bag manufacturer Ecopack Corp. told the Tariff Commission that since the cement industry went on a slump in 1997, it had to close down three factories in November last year and lay off 128 employees. It added that it was in the process of downsizing its operations further, which could affect another 100 employees next month, because of losses sustained by its clients—the cement firms—from the entry of imported cement at dumped prices.

Another producer of cement bags, Cembag Plastic Industries Ltd. Co., aired the same concern, as it stressed that its existence and the jobs of 842 people in its factory depended on leveling the playing field in the cement industry.

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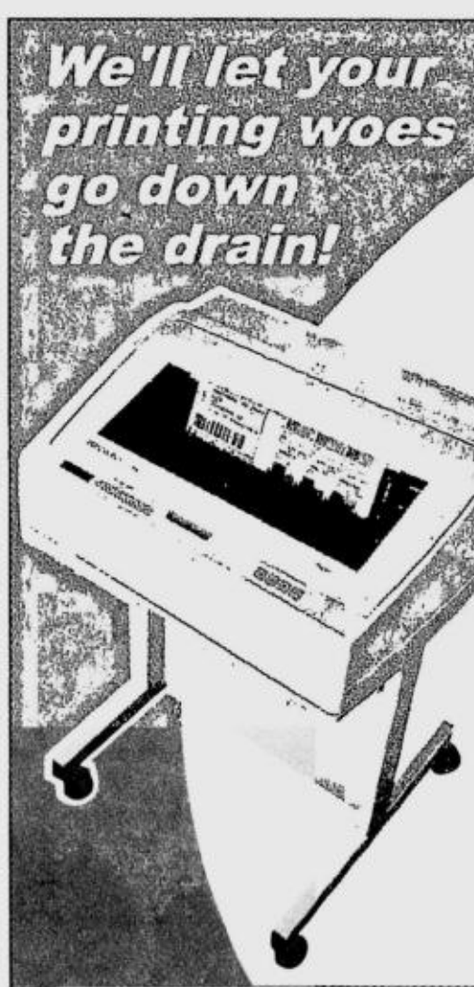
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US Fed officials cautious despite good data

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve officials are reluctant to give their blessing to the idea that the US recession's end is imminent, despite another batch of mildly positive data that trickled in last week.

Regional Fed bank presidents Michael Moskow and Alfred Broaddus on Friday welcomed the latest data on manufacturing, inflation and holiday shopping. But they stuck to the guarded tone that imbued virtually every speech by US central bank policymakers over the past two weeks, including one by Fed chair Alan Greenspan a week ago.

Greenspan's words will be under the market microscope again this week when he makes his first visit of the year to Capitol Hill, and analysts expect him to stick to the message.

Some of this week's rosier data have landed hard on bond markets, which thrive on bad news—fearing a recovery will bring an early end to rate cuts.

But, so far, there has been little from Fed officials to dent Wall Street hopes that the Fed will deliver a quarter-percentage point cut in interest rates after its next policy meeting, scheduled for Jan. 29 and 30.

Over the past year, the Fed has cut overnight rates 11 times. The benchmark fed funds rate now stands at a four-decade low of 1.75 percent.

In remarks to the Economic Club of Colorado on Wednesday, Fed vice chair Roger Ferguson said he thought the economy would likely see a rebound "before too long."

"The contours of the upturn are uncertain," Ferguson said.

There was a similar tone in the Fed's "beige book" report, also released Wednesday, which said the economy "remained weak" through early January but also cited "scattered reports of improvement."

After an address to a risk management group on Friday, Richmond Fed chief Broaddus told reporters he shared some of the concerns of private economists who thought a recovery would arrive this year but could start out fairly weak.

"I think most of these people are thinking, 'Well, we may get a recovery, but it may not start quite as early. It would be more in the second half of the year than in the first half of the year'," he said.

Similarly, Chicago Fed president Michael Moskow stopped short of proclaiming that the downtrodden manufacturing sector was out of the woods despite a positive reading on a gauge of the sector published by the Philadelphia Fed.

"Manufacturing is still slow but there are signs that it may be bottoming out," Moskow told reporters after speaking to a business association, where he repeated that positive signals for the broader economy were preliminary and the timing of a recovery remained uncertain.

To a remarkable degree, Fed officials have been reading off the same page lately, acknowledging signs of economic stabilization but warning that a recovery could take months to materialize and will likely be anemic at first. *Reuters*

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Treasury says US recovery close at hand

WASHINGTON—US Treasury Undersecretary for International Affairs John Taylor said on Friday recovery in the US economy was "close at hand," forecasting growth would reach 3 percent by the end of the year.

The "sense of a recovery being close at hand is a correct one," Taylor said in a press briefing.

He noted the pace of industrial production decline was slowing, and the inventory correction was leaving room for a "bounce-back" this year.

"By the end of this year, (we) are likely to see growth of around 3 percent," he said, which would be a normal growth rate following a relatively shallow recession.

He explained that "the general rule is the smaller the recession, the smaller the recovery," adding that the current recession "is smaller than the average."

Taylor echoed comments earlier this week from Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, who said data on the US economy were now "decidedly on the positive side," moving away from weakness. *AFP*

Argentine banks insolvent after devaluation

NEW YORK—Argentine banks are insolvent following the devaluation of the peso, and the financial system could collapse if banks are not allowed to write down the value of their liabilities, Moody's Investors Service said Friday.

It said a lack of a coherent monetary and banking policy framework in the wake of the dismantling of the peso convertibility regime—coupled with paralysis in the local financial markets—is jeopardizing the health and future of the banking system as a whole.

"The policy of requiring banks to repay dollar deposits with dollars is unenforceable, since the banks don't have the money, and neither does the government," Moody's said.

The peso, which until recently had been at parity with the dollar, traded Friday at 2.10 to the dollar, which meant assets in pesos were worth less than half their original value.

Moody's said the simplest option open to the government would seem to be to declare the banks insolvent, nationalize them, convert deposits into devalued pesos or into government bonds, recapitalize the banks with peso bonds and then auction them off.

"At a minimum, a general write-down of dollar-denominated obligations, including deposits, throughout the Argentine financial system is required to fundamentally rebalance the economy," the credit rating agency said.

It noted, however, that popular opposition to a write-down of deposits is quite strong. *AFP*

China fish catch shrinks, to cost 200,000 jobs

BEIJING—Dwindling marine life in China's offshore waters will force 200,000 fishermen out of work in the world's largest fishing nation, the state-run China Daily said Saturday.

Pollution and overfishing have so severely depleted fish populations that the size of China's annual catch has not grown for three straight years, the newspaper quoted an official at China's Fisheries Bureau as saying.

China will cut the size of its quarter-million-boat fishing fleet by 30,000 boats over the next five years, the report said. It said the bureau will find other work for the 200,000 fishermen left jobless. It didn't say how many people the industry now employs.

The bureau predicted that the size of China's annual catch will shrink 10 percent by 2006. In the first 11 months of last year, China caught 13 million tons of fish, down a fifth from the same time in 2000, the report said.

It said the size of the catch has also been constrained by agreements signed with the region's other big fishing countries—Japan, South Korea and Vietnam. *AP*

HUBBERT'S PEAK

Top geologist foresees end of petroleum era

NEW YORK—You wouldn't know it by sliding oil prices these days, but, if a new book suggesting crude supplies are running out turns out to be right, oil prices could be sky-high in less than a decade.

While the end-of-oil-soon idea has its share of critics, the stakes are high if they're wrong: The world economy could plunge into recession unless alternative energy sources are lined up to replace it.

In the new book, "Hubbert's Peak: The Impending World Oil Shortage" (Princeton University Press), author Kenneth Deffeyes argues that global crude oil production will reach its zenith in one to seven years, then begin a long and slow decline.

Saudi Arabia has come to the rescue in past crises, but the day could be coming when even that country can't be counted on to tap its reserves when a shortage occurs.

"One of the first pieces of hard news that you've reached the peak is when the rest of the world declines enough to the point where it locks up the Saudis' remaining capacity," Deffeyes told Reuters in a recent interview.

While Deffeyes argues in his book that the world hasn't properly prepared to avert a new energy crisis, he is no prophet of doom. Nor is he an environmentalist grinding an ax in the name of climate change or alternative energy.

He is a retired petroleum geologist and professor emeritus from Princeton University who says viable alternatives to oil, like natural gas for powering cars and wind and nuclear energy for generating electricity, won't be fully ready to pick up the slack when the production peak arrives.

Interestingly, his vast oilfield experience is precisely what detractors—usually economists—seize on. They argue that being so steeped in geology blinds experts like Deffeyes to improved technology and lower tax rates that add to efficiency in the energy business.

"My initial response is that one to seven years (until the oil decline) is a really short time," said Sarah Emerson, an analyst at Energy Security Analysis Inc., or ESAI, in Boston.

"The thing that always strikes me about geologists and engineers is that they kind of pay lip service to the economic arguments, but I don't think they've ever effectively countered them," Emerson added.

Deffeyes book is the latest study based on the work of M. King Hubbert, the late Shell Oil geologist and former Deffeyes colleague, who in 1956 predicted, successfully, it turned out, that US oil production would peak in the early 1970s.

While the United States is still vying with Saudi Arabia for the crown of top world oil producer, US output has been on a slow decline since it peaked 1970, and US imports now total over half of the 19.5 million barrels consumed each day.

Hubbert reckoned that the dual histories of oil discovery and production might conform to a more-or-less symmetrical rise and fall of a bell-shaped curve.

His critics acknowledge that finding oil might soon be a declining industry, but insist its extraction from existing fields will remain dynamic and innovative in the coming years and, thus, defy the timing of Deffeyes' prediction. They see a curve that's much gentler and longer than the "bell curve."

But Deffeyes stresses that the key to Hubbert's method is watching the course of oil discoveries for clues as to when production will hit its peak and begin falling.

"The thing that tells you production is really going to roll over is that discoveries worldwide since 1975 have not been all that great," Deffeyes said, adding that since then most discoveries have been of natural gas.

Deffeyes and others—notably Colin Campbell and Gene Laherrere, two executives with Petroconsultants in Geneva who published the article "The End of Cheap Oil" in the March 1998 edition of Scientific American magazine—have taken methods Hubbert used in his US study and applied it to the whole planet.

Campbell and Laherrere concluded, like Deffeyes, that the world's oil production would start to fall for good sometime during this decade.

"We're right on track," Deffeyes added, citing Oil & Gas Journal's 2001 report, which he says shows world output rose last year, but conformed to his expectation that as "Hubbert's Peak" nears, output increases should become increasingly slim.

Deffeyes concedes that his one-to-seven year prediction may be off the mark, and there are several factors that could definitely alter his thinking. The first is a big war in the Middle East that could cause a spike in oil demand and bring "Hubbert's Peak" sooner. In an opposing scenario, oil demand might drop in a serious, protracted economic downturn that would slash demand for oil and buy the world precious time to line up alternative energy sources. *Reuters*

Fighting poverty aids security–World Bank head

WASHINGTON—In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, the fight against poverty has become paramount in ensuring security and peace around the world, the president of the World Bank said in remarks issued on Friday.

James Wolfensohn made the comments at a four-day conference in Washington that came to a close on Thursday at which representatives of developing countries and donor agencies discussed ways to improve poverty reduction efforts.

"In our post-Sept. 11 world, the need to address poverty has become not only a moral imperative, not only a social and economic necessity, but also a central concern for everyone who strives for national and global security and peace," Wolfensohn said.

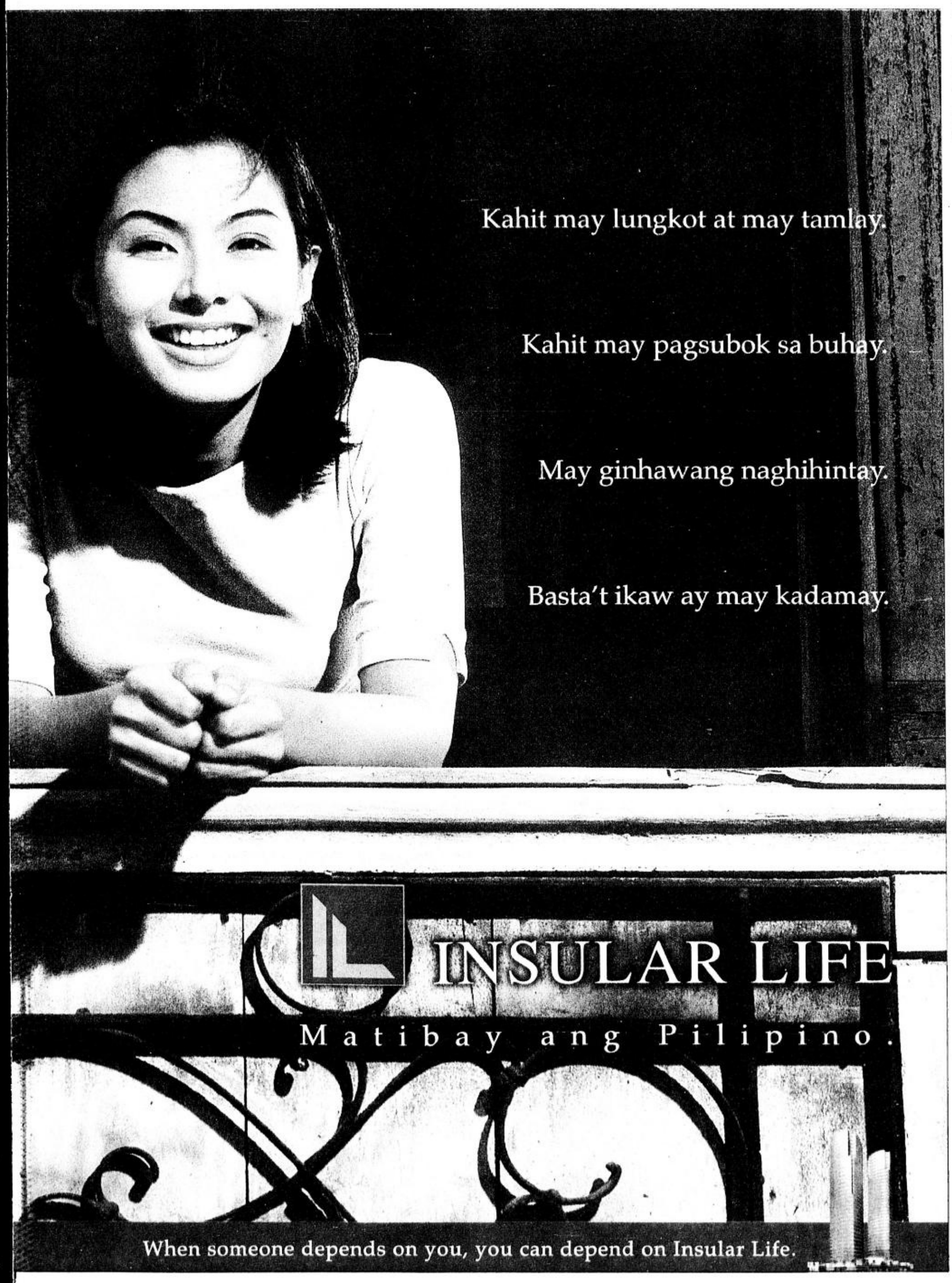
The Washington-based lender's poverty-reduction strategy is a country-driven program in which governments draft a strategy that they submit to the bank.

Loans are then made to countries whose strategies were approved by the board of the World Bank, and disbursements are based on progress made in fighting poverty and stimulating economic growth.

Wolfensohn also told the conference that more participation and better coordination on the part of donor countries were needed to make poverty reduction programs effective.

The head of the International Monetary Fund reiterated the call to wealthy economies to open markets for developing economies and make more resources available for countries that participate in the poverty reduction strategy.

"The true test of the credibility of wealthy nations' efforts to combat poverty lies in their willingness to open up their own markets and phase out trade-distorting subsidies in areas where developing countries have a comparative advantage," IMF managing director Horst Koehler told the conference. *Reuters*



PC sales hit hard by global slowdown

WASHINGTON—Sales of personal computers were hit by the global economic slowdown in 2001, showing their first yearly decline since 1985, but analysts said a fourth-quarter buying spurt was reason for optimism.

Gartner Dataquest reported Friday that worldwide PC shipments totaled 128 million units in 2001, a 4.6-percent decline from 2000.

In the United States, sales fell 11.1 percent to 44 million units, the California research firm said.

"The PC industry has not experienced such a difficult year since 1985, when worldwide PC shipments declined 2.3 percent and US PC shipments dropped 21.8 percent," Dataquest said in a statement.

The figures confirmed a survey from International Data Corp., which said fourth-quarter global PC sales were down 6.7 percent from the same period a year earlier to 34.2 million.

But IDC said the fourth quarter showed improvement, up 16.9 percent, over a dreadful third quarter.

"Hard times persist in the PC market, but vendors are working diligently to stimulate growth, and the outlook has started to improve in the United States and Europe," said IDC analyst Loren Loverde.

"We don't expect a rapid turnaround, but the seeds of recovery are being sown. Depending on the economic environment, growth in the PC market may pick up more rapidly toward the end of the year."

Dell Computers was the only major manufacturer to exhibit sales growth, with its worldwide shipments up 18.3 percent as it moved past Compaq to become the leading vendor, Dataquest said.

According to IDC, the only region of the world to show year-on-year growth in the fourth quarter was Asia Pacific excluding Japan.

But IDC said the sequential growth figure—comparing the fourth quarter with the prior quarter—provided a better indicator of the market's performance, with current sales "only slightly behind the average fourth-quarter sequential growth rate" of 19.8 percent from 1995 through 2000. *AFP*

EU seeks trade retaliation against US

GENEVA—The European Union on Friday asked the World Trade Organization to rule on the level of retaliation it was entitled to take against the United States over a US anti-dumping law and a copyright act, trade sources said.

Four days after it won a major victory over the United States in another trade row concerning US export tax breaks for US companies, the European Union was given the green light here for WTO arbitrators to judge how much damage it was suffering from the two US laws.

But in both cases, the arbitration process was put on hold, the sources said.

The European Union is joined by Japan in its complaint that a 1916 US Anti-Dumping Act violates WTO rules, a judgement upheld on two occasions by WTO experts but to which the United States has yet to comply.

Suspending the arbitrators' work is designed to give the US Congress time to act and repeal the offending law, the EU representative was reported to have told the meeting.

Japan's delegate said the arbitration procedure could resume at the request of one of the parties, sources said.

Both the European Union and Japan stressed the United States must change its law, telling Friday's meeting of the dispute settlement body that they were seeking arbitration on the level of damage to safeguard their rights under the system.

Anti-dumping is the action to stop the selling of goods at an unfairly low price on a foreign market. *AFP*

Emerson plans to close 30 plants

ST. LOUIS—Emerson Electric Co., which last year announced plans to close 20 plants worldwide, has increased that total to 50 as it implements a plan to move more of its operations to countries with low labor costs.

Emerson, the St. Louis-based maker of control systems, electronics and electrical products, hopes to close the plants and move their operations to countries such as China, Mexico and the Philippines by Sept. 30.

"The objective is to get it done before the turn-up (in business)," said Emerson chief executive David Farr.

There was no word from the company on how many employees could be laid off. Emerson said it was cutting 4,000 jobs when it announced its initial plans in October to close 20 of its 350 plants.

Many of the additional plant closures will come in Emerson's network power business, which the company is integrating with recent purchase Avansys Power Co. of China. *AP*

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Baggao
OFFICE OF THE PBAC CHAIRMAN

January 3, 2002

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of Baggao through the Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), hereby invites interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the Construction of 1-Phase Line to Taytay Bantay and Sitio Lupigan, Nangalinan, Baggao, Cagayan amounting to P1,440,043.38.

Instruction to bidders and pre-qualification documents will be available during office hours, **14-25 January 2002** at the PBAC Secretary upon submission of an Official Letter of Intent and presentation of original PCAB Certificate.

All pre-qualification documents submitted shall be properly accomplished, certified and duly notarized, including the requirements as mandated by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of PD 1594, as amended. The deadline of submission of pre-qualification documents shall be not later than **28 January 2002**.

Qualified contractors shall be notified in writing and corresponding bid documents will be issued upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 500.00.

Bidding will be on **12 February 2002**, 10:00 AM at Baggao Town Hall.

LGU-Baggao reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waived any required formality therein, and to make and award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LEONARDO C. PATTUNG, M.D.**
Municipal Mayor / PBAC Chairman

(PDI – Jan. 8 & 21, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is herby given that the estate ofRuperta Verduz has been settled under an Affidavit of Settlement of Estate with Absolute Deed of sale under Doc. No. 18, Page No. 4, Book No. 44, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Lope M. Velasco of Pasay City
(PDI- Jan. 14, 21 & 28 ' 2002)

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER

O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

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MANUEL SAN JOSE GAERLAN

June 17, 1927

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on January 19, 2002.

His bereaved wife **Rosario Redoña Gaerlan**; and his children **Suzanne** and **Tony Yupangco, Bon** and **Monique Gaerlan, Benjie** and **Daday Gaerlan, Wawi** and **Dave Dellosa, Tina** and **Dennis Aquino, Tickle, Mayan** and **Mark Quebral, Holen** and **Ray Aguirre, Yuyu** and **Oren Samodio.**

His grandchildren **Rosette, Monica, Patty; Margaux; Benirose, Manuel, Pauline, April; Julian, King, Daniel, Grace; Carlo, Pipay, Cara; Coco, Mojo, Nikki: Pao: Matthew.**

And his siblings and in-laws **Ester Gaerlan, Vic** and **Aurora Garcia, Tito** and **Luz Lopez, Ben** and **Linda Gaerlan, Zoly Redoña (†), Tennie Pablo, Tito** and **Lily Redoña, Baby** and **Lorie (†) Redoña, Butch** and **Ciony Asis.**

Hold his memory dearly and cherish his life dedicated to God, family, and colleagues. His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial, Quezon City. (Viewing will be from 9:00 a.m. to12:00 midnight only.) Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Thursday, January 24, 2002 after an 8:00 a.m. Mass in Arlington Memorial.

We, his family, request all relatives and friends to join us in prayer for his eternal rest.

We,

the family of the late

SY PIAN PIAN VDA. DE GO KUT

wish to thank all of you who, by way of your presence, flowers, thoughts, and prayers joined and supported us in remembering her, honouring her memory, and celebrating her life.

"For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love; neither death nor life, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below - there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is though Christ Jesus our Lord"

Romans 8:38-39

DR. PEDRO MANESE PEREZ

of San Juan, Batangas

Has peacefully joined our Creator on January 19, 2002 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife - **Dra. Carmen S. Perez**; his bereaved sisters - **Letty, Imelda & Tony, Corazon**; his bereaved children **Bong** and **Carmen, Cecile** and **Mike, Gigi** and **Randy**; grandchildren - **Marc, Miguel, Alex, Ariel** and **Tyler**; dear relatives and friends request the pious readers to join us in praying for his journey to eternal life.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel at Sucat Road, Parañaque City. Interment will follow at San Juan, Batangas on January 23, 2002.

Lt. Col. PNP AURELIO R. PERLAS, SR. (Ret.)

of Indang, Cavite and Project 7, Quezon City

peacefully joined his Creator, parents, brothers and sisters on 19 January 2002 at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife **ZENAIDA**; children **AVENSUS, MARILOU, MARION, CECILIA** and **AURELIO, JR.**; sons-in-law; daughter-in-law; grandchildren; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in union with the Lord.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

REMEDIOS PICACHE vda de ENRIQUEZ

December 3, 1907 – January 19, 2002

Peacefully joined her Creator, her husband FELICISIMO J. ENRIQUEZ SR. (†) and son JOSE "PEPOT" ENRIQUEZ (†) at the age of 94.

Bereaved son **JUN** and daughter-in-law **LINA**; sister **ASUNCION P. CANDO**; grandchildren **LIZ** and **FRANKLIN TARRONAS, ERWIN** and **CECILE CANO, EILEEN** and **RAY ELIDO, EMELYN** and **BONG ANGELES, EUNICE** and **MIGUEL MALABUYO, APPLE** and **EMIL LIWANAG**; great-grandchildren **Fritz, Marc, Shae-Shae, Martina, Carin, Joanna, Angelina, Jacob, Mikayla** and **Ori**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Santuario de San Jose Greenhills Parish Hall, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

Masses will be celebrated every evening at 8:00 at the Parish Hall.

Interment will be on January 24, 2002 at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the
Seventh Death Anniversary
of

ANTONIA M. C. REYES

who went to her Eternal Rest on the 21st Day of January 1995

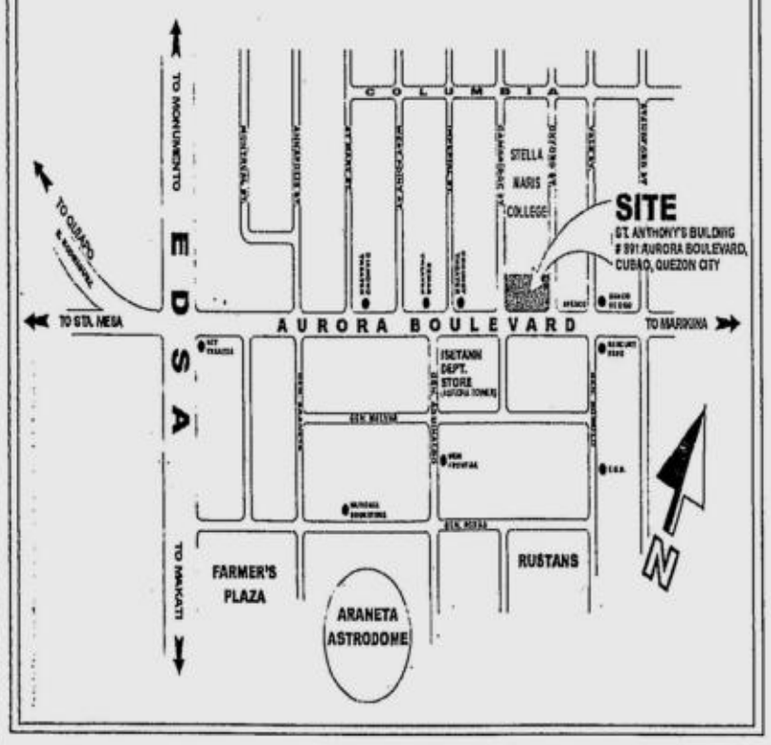
We, the family of the late **Antonia M. C. Reyes**, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Masses will be offered at the Cauayan Parish Church, Cauayan, Isabela and at the Cathedral of Baguio City.

CLASSIFIEDS

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements. For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Aaah... chooo!

Q. Why does pepper make us sneeze?

A. Blame the essential oils found in pepper. These oils, which can be extracted from the berries of the pepper plant, are used by food processors to flavor sausages, sauces, salad dressings, processed meats, and many other foods. But eating a sausage seasoned with pepper doesn't make you sneeze. The major culprit is *piperine*, a chemical found in black and white pepper. Piperine provides the pleasant biting sensation that accompanies the aroma to the mouth when it is tasted. Since piperine bites the tongue, it also bites the delicate membranes of the nose. When particles of finely ground pepper are drawn into the nose, the body reacts by expelling the particles, just as it would try to expel any other dust particles.

For the Record. Pepper is prepared from the peppercorn, the fruit of the pepper plant, a climbing vine native to India and widely cultivated in hot, moist areas of tropical Asia. Peppercorns that are harvested while green and immature and then allowed to dry yield black pepper. To produce white pepper, red and ripe peppercorns are soaked in water and their outer covering is rubbed off. Pepper is one of the oldest known spices, in use for at least 3000 years. Although pepper contains several alkaloids, its pungency is caused by a resin called *chavicine*.

Past Forward. This day in 1954: The United States launched the *Nautilus*, the world's first nuclear submarine. The 324-foot vessel, designed by Admiral Hyman Rickover, was powered by one Westinghouse S2W nuclear reactor. The *Nautilus* was refueled for the first time over two years later, after voyaging 128,044 kilometers (69,138 miles).

WORD WATCH

Salbabida: from the Spanish *salvavidas* (with 's'; the plural is also *salvavidas*), 'life preserver; lifeboat,' a combination of *salva* ('save') + *vidas* ('lives').

PDI – January 21, 2002

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
January 9, 2002

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar projects (at least 50% of Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to bid for the contracts listed as follows:

Contract Package	Scope of Works	Contract Cost (Php)	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
1. Tammang Housing Project, Kamahardikaan, Indanan, Sulu	Core Housing Construction	3.500 M	B	Medium "A" for Building
2. Jolo Eagles Cooperative Housing Project, Patikul, Sulu	Road, drainage, survey works	3.138 M	B	Medium "A" for Roads
3 Butuan City New Villages, Phase 1, Bgy. Mahay, Butuan City	Road, drainage, sewerage, survey works	14.600 M	A	Medium "B" for Roads
4. Improvement of Iloilo Project Office Mandurriao, Iloilo City	Extension of Office Building	1.863 M	B	Small "A" for Building

A. Eligibility Statement Forms, bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, Second Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent; b) PCAB/IAC License; c) Certificate of Completion/Acceptance and Contract Agreement of completed similar project; and d) Presentation of above-cited original documents for authentication purposes.
B. Interested contractors may contact the BAC Secretariat with Telephone Nos. 929-6016 and 928-4561 to 65 local 262 for additional information
C. Payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 per set for Contracts 1-3 and P500.00 for Contract 4 shall be received only from authorized representatives
D. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.
E. Deadline of submission of LOI/issuance of bid documents is on **January 30, 2002**. Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference and other bidding activities shall be announced later.
F. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formality any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI – Jan. 16, 21 & 29, 2002)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

Cabanatuan Branch, Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO BID

The **DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES**, Cabanatuan Branch, Cabanatuan City, will receive competitive oral bids on "as is, where is" basis at its office at Burgos Avenue corner Gabaldon Street, Cabanatuan City, on January 30, 2002 at 10:30 a.m. for the following property, to wit:

TITLE NO./DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	STARTING BID
TCT No. T-107402, Parañaque City Registry; A parcel of residential lot containing an area of 300 sq.m., located at No. 3814 Daffodil Street, Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City	
Erected thereon is a two-storey residential house (TFA of 91 sq.m.)	P 2,302,400.00

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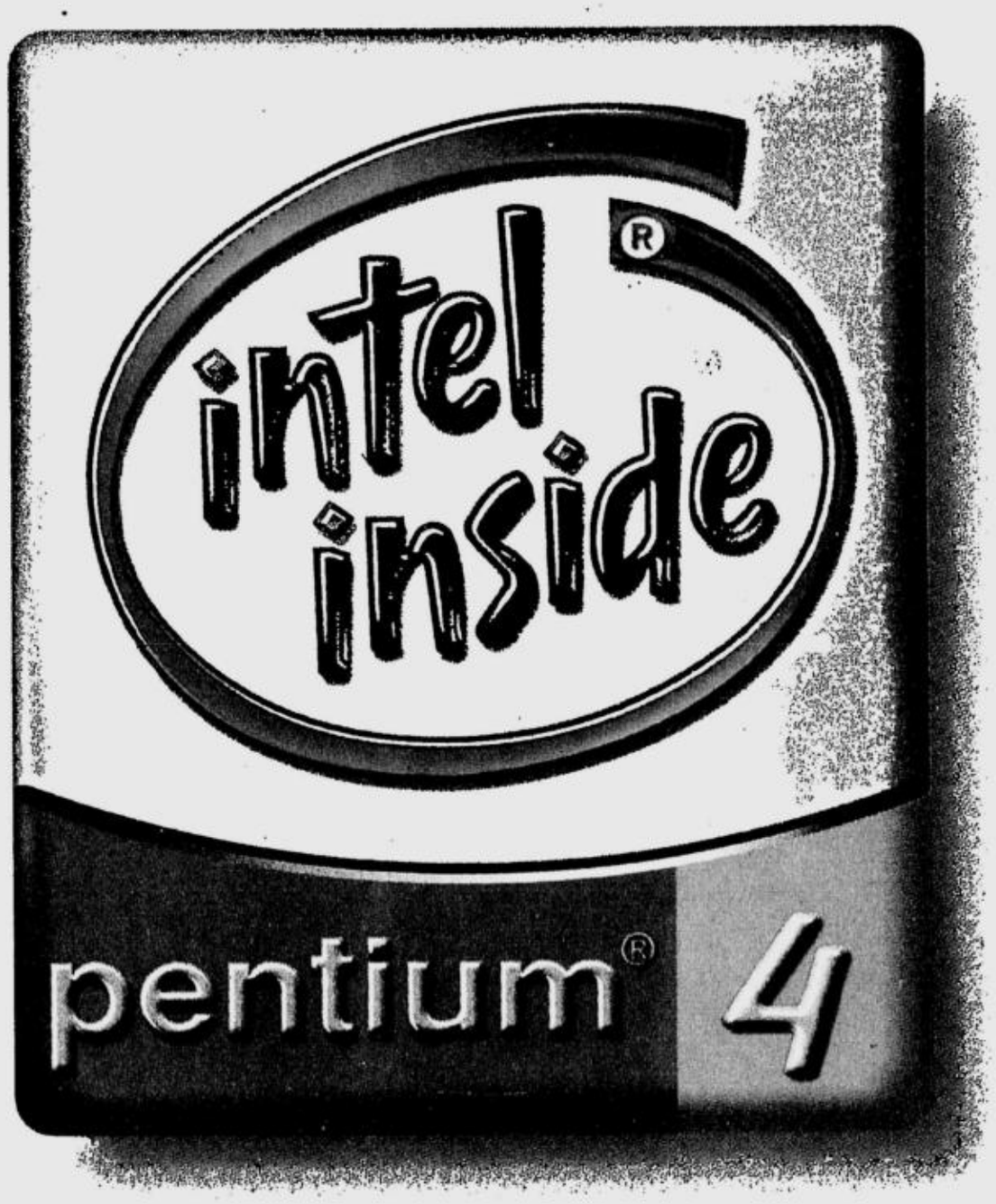

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INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

You either love or hate Apple's new iMac

Like the first iMac released four years ago, the new model is a one-piece arrangement containing both the CPU and the monitor, but this one, complete with an adjustable neck for the monitor, looks like a perky, oversized lamp

BY JAVIER VICENTE RUFINO
INQ7.net

IF PCs are the Hondas and Toyotas of the computing world, then Apple Macintoshes are its Italian sports cars. Pricey, sexy, objects of techno-fetishistic worship that at times borders on the pornographic.

They are and will probably never be mass-market machines but they define the state-of-the-art in personal computing. Not all of Apple's designs though have been successful. The Lisa and the G4 Cube come to mind. The latter a gamble that cutting-edge design would triumph over a relatively high price point and a lack of expandability. Sadly, it was a gamble that failed.

The new Apple iMac may yet avoid the fate of its silver antecedent. Launched with more hype than any previous Apple product in recent memory—including a countdown on the Apple website and exclusive cover on Time magazine—the new iMac carries on the mold-breaking tradition of the first iMac. Like the first iMac, it's a one-piece arrangement containing both the CPU and the monitor. This is good since you don't have to buy a separate monitor, but bad if you want a bigger monitor. However, while the first iMac's integrated CRT monitor made it look like a tutti-frutti TV, the new iMac boasts a flat-screen LCD panel perfectly balanced on the end of a stainless-steel tube. The tube allows you to swing and tilt the monitor around to get the best viewing angle. Apple got the tactile feel just right and the bezel feels neither flimsy nor stiff as you move it about. The 15-inch screen is unusually sharp and bright and has the important advantage of being far easier on the eyes than traditional CRT monitors.

Less successful though in terms of design is the iMac's circular base which makes the entire computer resemble a perky oversized lamp. A square-shaped base might not only have been cheaper to make (Apple had to design an entirely new circular motherboard) but would also have jibed with the straight-line design ethos found in the iBook and Powerbook G4. But then again, the iMac is aimed not at the technology-savvy crowd but at the consumer market which seems to prefer non-traditional shapes for their computers, the better to have them blend in with the decor of the living room.

What Apple has gotten right though is the number of ports and their location on the iMac. Cube G4 users cursed whenever they had to attach peripherals to their machines because the ports were placed beneath the computer which meant having to upend the entire machine to plug in a digital camera or scanner. No such problem with the iMac which has its ports sensibly placed at the back of the base. Just as hidden in most cases but easier to reach. The number of ports is also suprising: three USB (Universal Serial Bus) ports on the base alone with an additional two ports on the keyboard, essentially negating the need for a USB hub for all but the most fanatical gadget fiend.

That's a good thing as some USB peripherals don't perform well when sharing a single USB port via a hub. The number of ports will let a home user connect a scanner, floppy disk or other external disk drive, and a printer all at once without having to disconnect any other peripheral. For digital photography and video buffs, the two Firewire ports will be a boon as will the 800 MHz G4 processor of the iMac which for the first time boasts the high-speed Velocity engine that was previously found only in Apple's professional line of computers.

Another plus for the new iMac is the availability of the SuperDrive on the highest-end model. The Superdrive is not only a CD-burner but a DVD-burner as well, which promises to take home video to new heights of sophistication. If you want the fastest CD-burning speeds, though, go for the CD-only burner unit which writes CD-R discs at 24x speed versus the Superdrive's 8x speed. If you only want to play DVDs but not make them, the DVD-ROM/CD-RW combo drive is your best bet.

Take note that all three CD drive options allow you to burn CDs and the capacious hard drive (40 Gb to 60 Gb) gives you lots of room to store the MP3 music files and digital camera images people love to fill their CDs with.

According to Apple Philippines, the new iMac will be available in stores in the last week of January with prices starting at P85,000 for the base model (40 Gb, 128 Mb memory, CD-RW drive) and topping off at P113,000 for the high-end model (60 Gb, 256 Mb memory, DVD-R/CD-RW drive). Previous generation iMacs won't be discontinued and will continue to be sold at around P50,000 to P60,000.

Is it worth it? If you're looking for the best-featured home computer you can get and your tastes agree with the iMac's aesthetics, then it's a worthy successor to the first generation iMacs. It definitely won't look out of place if your apartment is an Ikea showcase. If you prefer the traditional lines of a desktop computer and want the option to upgrade the screen in the future, you're better off taking a look at Apple's PowerMac G4 desktop line which with their molten extruded silver look are just as good-looking though more imposing than the diminutive iMac.

Apple eyes education, home mart for new iMac

BY ERWIN G. OLIVA
INQ7.net

APPLE wants its new iMac to become not only common fixtures in homes and schools but also a technology both markets will embrace as part of an emerging digital lifestyle.

"We don't aim to just sell hardware but encourage them to embrace our technology," Charlie Tang, country manager for Apple Philippines, said during the local launch of the new iMac. "It will become the center of their digital lifestyle."

Tang said that Apple Philippines plans to hold seminars that will help schools incorporate Apple's latest innovation into their curriculum.

The executive is also contemplating on selling the new iMacs to private and international schools like Xavier, Brent and Assumption.

"We want to focus our strategic marketing on these groups and help them understand our solutions, not just our hardware," Tang added.

Christopher Tan, channel sales manager for Apple Philippines, admitted that Apple computers appeal more to the creative and professional markets, which remain the biggest markets of Apple in the Philippines.

"Seventy to 80 percent of our revenues come from those markets," Tan said.

For 2001, Tan said that Apple Philippines was able to sell 2,000 to 3,000 units of varying models of Apple computers in the country.

Tang, for his part, said that Apple Philippines experienced a 20-percent growth in fiscal year 2001, but declined to give details. He said, however, that Apple reported $38 million in global profit during the first quarter of fiscal year 2002.

The new iMac features a 15-inch flat-panel display, which is held up by a chrome-pipe neck. Strikingly similar to Luxo Jr., the computer-animated lamp character in Pixar's short film, the new iMac appears more like a lamp than a drab PC. The monitor can be pulled or pushed back according to one's preference, then rotated 180 degrees.

The chrome neck is connected to a dome-shaped polycarbonate encasing which is 10.4 inches in diameter. Powering this sphere-like CPU is a PowerPC G4 processor "on steroids" (thanks to a technology called Velocity Engine) and the Mac OS X.

It also comes with a choice of a CD-rewritable, or a DVD player and a CD-rewritable-in one, or a DVD-rewritable and CD-rewritable drive.

Prices vary with the increase of random access memory (RAM), features and hard disk space. The cheapest model starts at P85,988 and goes up to the high-end model at P113,988.

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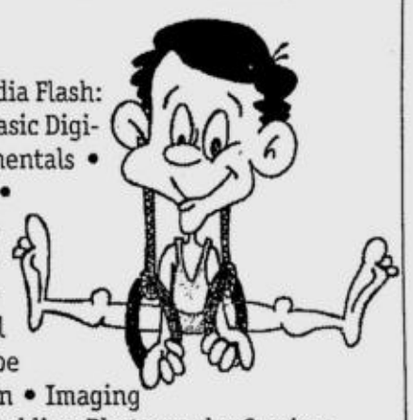

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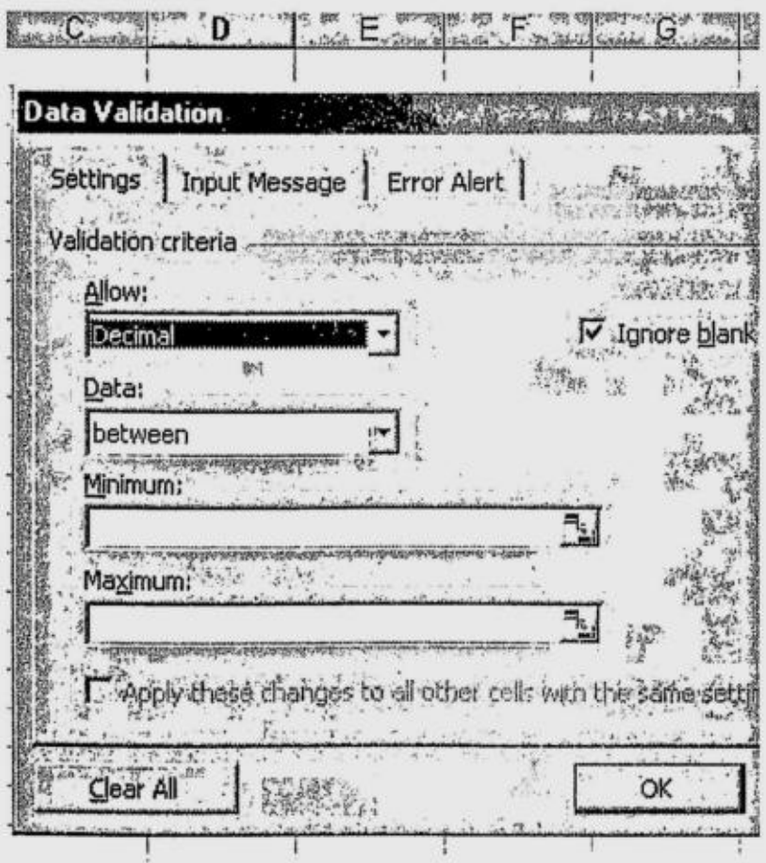
Gov't ICT official resigns

TOBY Melissa Monsod, Trade and Industry Assistant Secretary for Information Technology and E-commerce, Policy and Communications, has submitted her letter of resignation which will take effect Feb. 15.

Monsod, former executive director of the Information Technology and E-commerce Council before it was reorganized, said she wanted to finish her Ph.D. dissertation in Economics at the University of the Philippines. Gregory Domingo will act as interim head of the IT and E-commerce group, while Ma. Lourdes A. Yaptinchay will take over the policy and communications function of her job.



SOMETIMES, when you input a lot of data in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, you want to minimize data entry errors by setting limits on a group of cells. This is how we do it.

Data validation in MS Excel

BY JERRY LIAO

YOU can set limits or validations to cells or range of cells in Microsoft Excel to minimize your errors during data entry. Heres how:

(1) Open an Excel worksheet.

(2) Select a cell or range of cells.

(3) Go to "Data," then "Validation."

(4) Choose the "Setting" tab.

(5) Select a data type under the "Allow list."

(6) Select the condition under the data list.

(7) Set your minimum and your maximum values.

(8) You can also customize the messages with the "Input Message" tab and the "Error Alert" tab.

(9) Click "OK."

(10) If data entered doesn't meet the criteria specified, an error message will appear.

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LAUS GROUP GETS PLDT "BRAINS"

The Laus Group of Companies (LGC), the largest car dealership network in Central and North Luzon, has tapped the Philippine Long Distance Company (PLDT) to upgrade its communication and information system.

In ceremonies held at the Mimosa Leisure Estate in Clark Field Last year, LGC President Levy P. Laus signed an agreement with PLDT for the provision of BRAINS or Broad and Robust ATM and IP Networking Solutions. LGC is the first to use BRAINS in North Luzon. With BRAINS, all affiliates are now interconnected nationwide.

"With BRAINS, we expect communication at LGC to be greatly enhanced, and we see productivity and progress at hand," LAUS said.

BRAINS is a suite of high performance managed data service providing cost-effective networking solutions. It supports both voice and data requirements making communication faster and more efficient. Major network points are running on 622 Mbps, which virtually eliminates congestion. It provides an on-line access to central database and has the capability of accomplishing many other functions faster. With these features, the system allows for effective internal communication even as it lessens the group's operational cost.

PLDT recently signed a contract with Laus Group of Companies (LGO) for the provision of PLDT Brains Frame Relay Service. Shown in photo during the signing held at the Montevista Villas, Mimosa Golf & Country Club (seated, from left): Luis Ignacio Lopa, Head-PLDT North Luzon Sales; Renato Castaneda, Head-PLDT Regional Sales; Levy Laus, Chairman & CEO-LAUS Group of Companies; Franco De Jesus, SEVP-LGC. Standing (from left): Pete Simbulan, EVP/Comptroller-LGC; Luis Tirso Trinidad, Corporate Solutions Executive-PLDT North Luzon Sales; Dondi Mayordomo, IT Head-LGC.

"These are just some of the values PLDT BRAINS brings to LGC," Nerisse Ramos, AVP-PLDT Business Solutions, said.

Dondi Mayordomo, LGC Head for Information Technology, Said that the system would make information easily accessible to all LGC affiliates, bringing greater efficiency to LGC's operations.

PLDT, which has the widest reach among all telecom carriers, will provide the necessary equipment and facilities to run BRAINS.

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BUSINESS Monday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

China enters WTO: What does it mean for RP?

BY DENNIS M. ARROYO

AS OF Dec. 11, 2001, the People's Republic of China has officially entered the World Trade Organization (WTO). This means that China will now take on a greater role in world trade and investment.

The biggest kid on the block has entered the fray. How will the change impact on the Philippines? Here is a primer for business.

• Why did China lobby hard to enter the WTO?

China has campaigned for 15 years because her entry will lead to long-term growth. Foreign investment will rush in to cater to the immense market of 1billion people. The investors will thus pump up capital, sharpen competition and infuse Western technology and management models.

Because of the market pressure unleashed by foreign investors, the economy will be pushed toward more reform. That will result in greater efficiency and growth, as pointed out by Lehman Brothers.

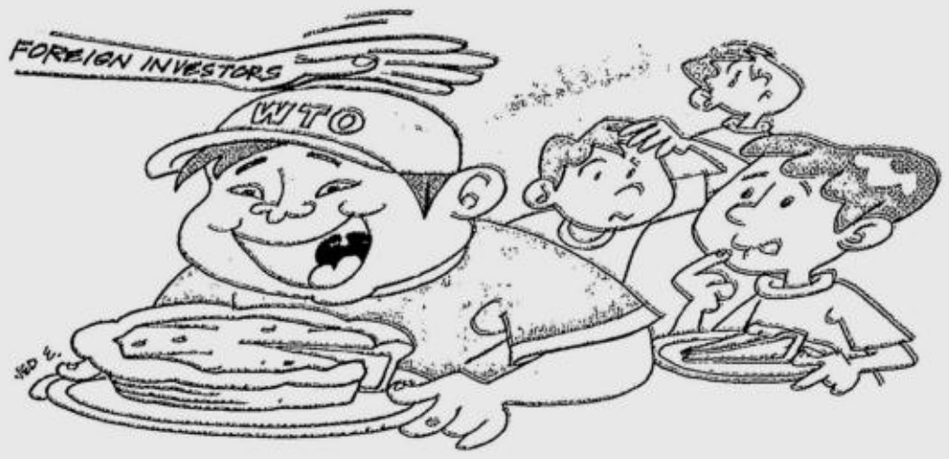
Various studies have shown that WTO entry will add from 0.5 to 4.1 percentage points to China's annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate.

• Will the change be smooth?

In a word, no. In the short run, China will be absorbing cheaper imports for some industries. This will cause some state-run companies to go bankrupt, and that will harm employment. Jobs will shift from the traditionally protected industries to those where China boasts of export winners.

During the first year, entering the WTO will cut off 0.3 percentage points from her annual GDP growth, according to a study by the International Monetary Fund. The WTO will fuel growth only after the difficult initial year.

CHINA/ B2



Cashing in on China

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

MANY developing countries such as the Philippines were threatened when China finally entered the World Trade Organization—an event described as a milestone in the world economy.

There is basis for this fear as most foreign investors with ready cash are expected to bypass developing countries in favor of China, which has committed to trade in a liberalized and transparent manner as required by the WTO.

China's huge market and production capacity are just too hard to resist for foreign companies looking to expand their market base.

But there are also opportunities for developing countries, the Philippines included, to cash in on China's WTO ascension, according to Ellen H. Palanca of the Department of Economics and Chinese Studies Program, Ateneo de Manila University.

Palanca said in a paper presented during the conference entitled, "China and the WTO: The New Trade Paradigm," that China's entry to the WTO means that the country will bring down tariff barriers and open its market to foreign companies and their goods.

This would, in turn, lead to greater efficiency and economic growth for China, resulting in higher purchasing power for the Chinese.

Opportunities

"Economic growth implies greater demand for consumer products and services as well as raw materials and other product inputs. Hence with China's economy becoming more open and its market more expanded, there will be more incentives for producers to explore trade areas and find niches to fill in," Palanca said.

Palanca said she sees increased demand for Philippine products that are already being exported to China.

These include seafood, canned tuna, fruits, vegetable fats and oils, coconut milk, garments, electronic calculating machines, accounting machines, sound recording tapes, video tapes, magnetic discs, and paper and paper products.

Palanca said the Philippines should not rely on semiconductors and computer chips to boost exports to China as foreign investors may put up new manufacturing facilities in China itself to take advantage of the market and the cheap labor.

"With the expected increase in foreign investment inflow to China after its ascension to the WTO, some of the foreign enterprises in semiconductor production in the Philippines may move to China," Palanca said.

The reduced demand for semiconductors, however, may be offset by exports of other products.

Palanca said demand for these products may increase as the purchasing power in China rises.

"One can expect greater market access opportunities for these potential export products following China's entry to the WTO. Lower prices resulting from lower tariffs, plus the expected higher income of the Chinese consumers, can ensure greater demand for these products," she said.

Potential exports

These potential exports include shrimps and prawns, jelly fish, coconuts, roasted coffee, chocolates and cocoa products, biscuits, prepared and preserved fruits, seaweed, beer, tobacco, jewelry, furniture, TV and refrigerators, toys, video games, wood products, paper products and plastics manufacturers.

The Philippines could also take advantage of China's growth by promoting services.

Palanca expected that China would require the services of more professionals as it comes to grips with its economic growth.

"When China becomes integrated into the world economy, not only will foreign professionals be allowed access to practice in China, the demand for them will also rise. We can expect job opportunities for professionals like legal consultants, managers, architects, teachers, accountants and bankers to increase," she said.

Tourism is another important service trade that the Philippines can promote, Palanca said.

Palanca stressed that the Philippines should take steps and look for other export winners as China would surely take over markets where it has an advantage.

China advantage

Palanca said China has many products that it can produce more cheaply than the Philippines. These would be exported in bigger volumes as it now faces less restrictions following its entry to the WTO.

"This will create not only a possible flooding of China-made goods in the Philippines, but also the greater need for the Philippines to compete with such cheap goods in the world market," Palanca said.

These goods include tea and spices, canned fish and preserved vegetables' silk, textile yarn, cotton fabrics, textile products, pottery, cutlery and base metal household equipment; travel goods, handbags, cloth, footwear, toys, sporting goods and gold and silver jewelry.

"A challenge for the Philippines will be to find niches where it can develop its competitive edge in terms of product differentiation and specialization," Palanca said.

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'You can't teach people punctuality if you are always late'

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

DIFFERENT companies enticed Jose Agaton R. Sibal with offers to take up a management position in their firms when he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

Sibal declined the juicy offers thinking he would also be a manager when he goes home to the Philippines to join his parents' book publishing and printing companies.

His late father Ernesto Y. Sibal who founded the Phoenix group of companies, however, did the opposite.

From the management position he was expecting, Sibal was sent to the printing press to become a machine operator with printer's ink dirtying his hands day in and day out.

The experience proved invaluable to Sibal, who now manages 125 employees employed by different companies such as Phoenix Press Inc., the printing arm of the group; the three Central stores that make and sell law books; and Phoenix Publishing House Inc. which publishes educational materials.

"My experience definitely helped shape my management style because those involved in the printing side like the operators, helpers, skilled and non-skilled workers know that I know their field of expertise. I am able to speak with more authority and I get respect that way," Sibal explains.

He adds that he feels very proud to this day that he knows how to operate almost all of the company's printing machines, especially the older ones. He can even be called on to repair some of the machines.

He says he modifies his management style depending on the group that he is handling. When he talks to the people from the printing side of the business, he tends to be more hands-on and he emphasizes the fact that there is only one and right way to be good in the printing business.

JOSE Agaton R. Sibal modifies the way he handles people depending on who they are, but one thing is common: leadership by example.

On the other hand, Sibal backs off a little from his staff who are involved in the law book publishing side of the business. He says he just sets the parameters within which the editorial staff, the lawyers and other professionals can work.

"They are generally left to do what they want, they have room to be a little bit more creative. What is important is they bring in the required results," Sibal says.

And like in the printing side, Sibal knows first hand what the business is all about in publishing because he is also a lawyer.

Sibal went to law when he was 28 years old, and he found it interesting enabling him to graduate cum laude from the University of the East.

Sibal went on to publish his own legal books as author or co-author. These include the New Constitution for Philippine Schools, the Local Government Code, Philippine Labor Code and Labor Administration in the Philippines, Legal and Judicial Ethics and the Philippine Legal Encyclopedia.

He is also the publisher and executive editor of the Supreme Court Reports Annotated (SCRA).

"I use both my printer's side and my lawyer side in the business, but I still feel that I am a printer first and a lawyer, second," he says.

What unites both management styles, however, is his philosophy of leading by example—a philosophy that was passed on by his father.

"Our father always told us that you cannot teach your people to be punctual if you are always late," he says.

Sibal says this is one reason why he makes sure that he puts in his hours at work and keeps a close watch on the business.

"You always have to be present if you want the company to grow, you cannot just delegate it or ask somebody else to do it for you," he adds.

Because of the Sibal family's close watch over the Phoenix group, Phoenix Press has laid out a 10-year expansion program that is estimated to cost the company between P150 million and P160 million.

"Right now we only publish about 20 percent of the work requirement of Phoenix publishing, we want to make it 100 percent by the time we complete the expansion program," Sibal says.

China enters . . .

(From page B1)

• How will China's WTO membership affect the Philippines?

The Philippines and other Asean countries will face even greater competition from the exports of China. The Asian giant has been the source of very cheap products, and more will wash on to the Philippine economy.

This is how a Lehman Brothers analyst describes it:

"On the other hand, Southeast Asia will face some serious challenges from a more open China. Countries such as Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines compete most directly with China, and so will experience stiff competition and lower prices in a range of labor-intensive products.

"These countries are also likely to find it harder to attract foreign investment. China is already the principal (foreign direct investment) recipient among developing countries, and has been gaining a bigger share of the pie in recent years, by companies looking to gain a foothold into China's massive domestic market."

• In other words, will China be eating into the economic pie of Asean?

Yes. At present, China gets $40 billion in foreign investment, and the figure will rise over the years. Our own exports of the low value-added variety may be hammered.

Song Seng Wun, Regional Economist, GK Goh, told Channel News Asia, "MNCs will want to diversify and spread some of the risks so they will continue to remain in countries like Malaysia Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines . . . But what basically this means is that we're leaving the crumbs to the region with China taking up the huge section of the pie."

In 2000, Asean got only 8.6 percent of foreign investment that entered Asia excluding Japan. The ratio for China, including Hong Kong, was an overwhelming 80 percent.

"The most obvious challenge to Southeast Asia will be investment," said a report of DBS bank, the largest lender in Southeast Asia. "Taking the blame here is China's twin allure of cheap and abundant labor, coupled with the promise of a huge domestic market."

• How can the Philippines cope with competition from China?

Accept the fact that we cannot compete in price. China is already the world leader in offering low-cost, labor-intensive exports. Sweatshops abound there, so labor costs are low. The Philippines should look for niches of higher value, offering more knowledge-intensive products.

It is doubtful that China can overtake the Philippines early on in hi-tech exports. We are the second largest exporter of software in Asia. The nation's top exports are electronic goods and components. The lesson is to look for niches in this sector and excel in them. Overcrowding by China? There is always room at the top.

• Can the Philippines take advantage of China's WTO entry?

Definitely. The critical point is that China has a vast population which gets richer every year due to sizzling economic growth. The middle class is expanding, and the people are moving toward the cities. These factors make for an attractive export market.

The Philippines has long depended on the United States market for exports. Shifting some exports to China should lessen this dependence and vulnerability.

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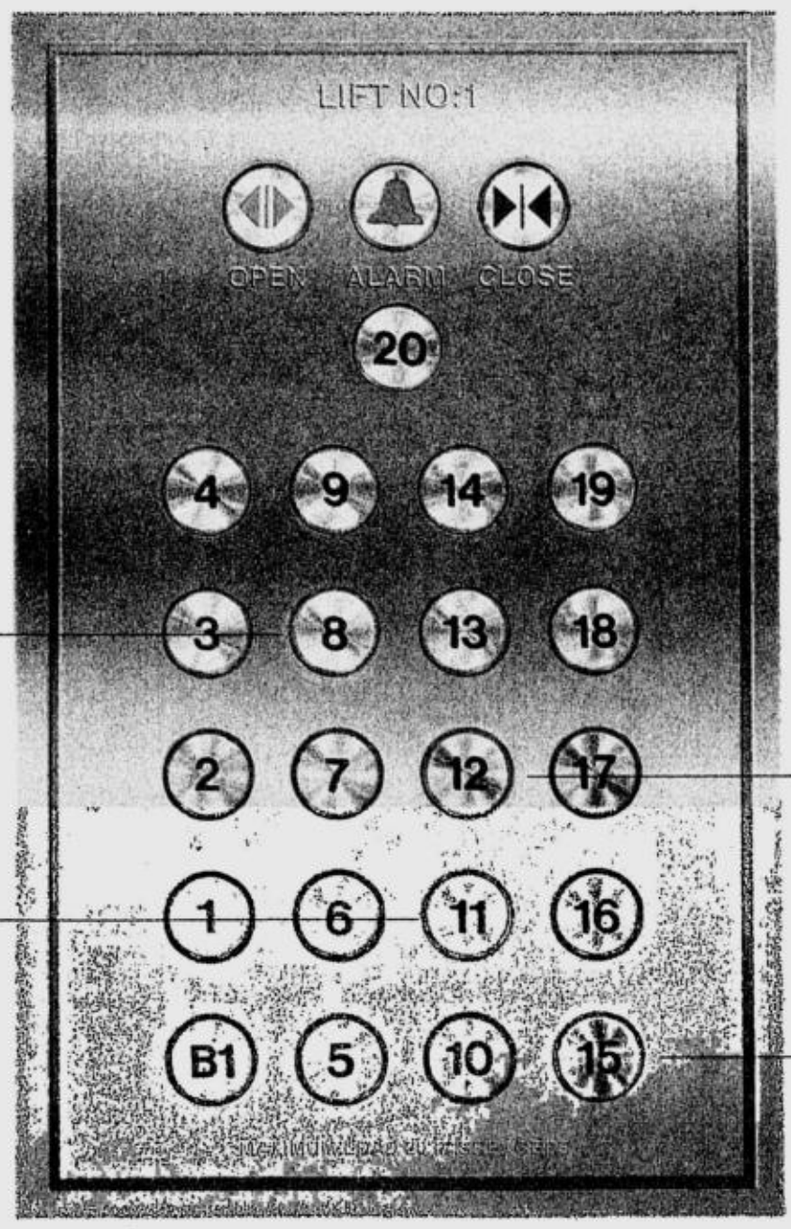

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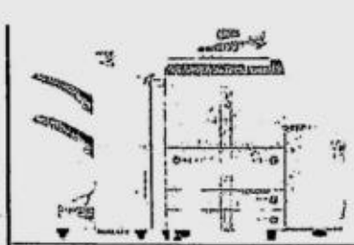

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MAPPING THE FUTURE

Robert M. Sears

IN THE new economy, education and technology research and development, health care and a clean environment are of great value. Without these, it will be very difficult to prove that the global economy works for ordinary citizens.

It is also a given that the Philippines, or any country hoping for a better future must make investments in education, in health care and in the economic environment. Unless people are empowered with the tools to master economic change they will feel they are its victims.

It is important to put a human face to the global economy to ensure that international trade and investment will benefit ordinary citizens.

Having said that, we in the Chamber are very much in favor of the Philippine-American Free Trade. Trade between the two countries has proved beneficial in the past and, hopefully will prove so in the future.

As a member of Asean, the Philippines is already working with other members of the group to lower tariffs to a maximum of 3 percent within the next 10 years.

The lowering of tariffs has created problems in some sectors. Accusations of "dumping" are loud and frequent. The international standards that can contribute to the transfer of technology to developing countries should be taken advantage of to ensure the country meets international standards and is able to compete in the international marketplace.

While it is true that until the Laurel-Langley Agreement expired in 1970, American businessmen enjoyed equal legal status in the country, this was viewed by many as unfair, and perhaps it was. However, it is the future that must concern us now. The Philippines is a member of the World Trade Organization. As such, it is required to reduce tariffs. These still range from 3 to 100 percent.

In the automotive industry, for instance, the tariff can be as high as 100 percent depending on the kind of vehicle. Authorities believe the tariff should be pegged at a maximum of 40 percent.

Many of the problems faced by the country can be laid squarely at the door of the "oligarchs" and their fierce protectionism.

Again as an example, it used to be cheaper to purchase corn from Thailand due to the transportation costs of bringing it to Metro Manila from Mindanao. This is not only ridiculous, it has kept the southern portion of the country from enjoying the benefits of their agricultural output.

The WTO recognizes that no country should be prevented from taking measures to ensure the quality of its exports; the protection of human health or safety; the protection of animal or

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HONDA

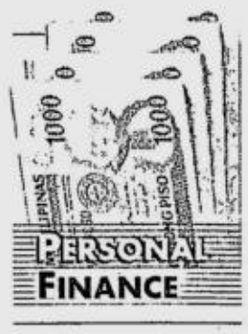
SIDE A puts their money to good use.

Side A's business side

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

THE ENTERTAINMENT industry can be cruel to its people. It can pay personalities mind-boggling amounts of money for so little effort. And just when they are getting used to the easy flow of money, the offers suddenly stop coming in.

The sudden shift in the fortunes of many "stars" left many more destitute than when they started out—classic tales of "from rags, to riches, to rags again."



The popular Side A show band, which just celebrated its 17th year in the business, is determined that its story will have a different ending.

It wants its tale to end like those of other people in show business who made good use of their earnings like Sharon Cuneta, Hajji Alejandro, Judy Ann Santos and Diether Ocampo.

Front man Joey Generoso tells Business Monday in an interview that the five members of the group have always been conscious about the need to make the most of what they earned from the business because they will not be famous forever.

Generoso used part of his earnings to put up endowment funds for his two children, purchase educational loans that would fund their way to college, and time deposits.

He says he entrusts wife Girlie with his entire salary, admitting that he would probably spend all of it in a day on clothes and shoes.

"She budgets everything. She just gives me my allowance. If I want to buy something, I would have to ask for her permission. She also earns her own money by going into all kinds of businesses like Nu Skin and Lifestyles," Generoso says.

Joey Benin, who plays bass for Side A, puts his money in various businesses. He put up a recording studio called Studio 8, which records commercial albums such as those of Sharon Cuneta.

He also put up a web development company called Imbue where he can indulge in his other passion, which is information technology.

"He has always been interested in computers for as long as I can remember, Generoso says.

Keyboardist Naldy Gonzales, on the other hand, did not stray from music. He earns money on the side by arranging music for other artists and for producing records.

Kelly Baldon, who plays lead guitar, is more into real estate. He has acquired two houses and is currently building a four-door apartment.

Baldon also builds small houses and sells them for a profit.

Baldon came from humble beginnings and he has vowed to himself that he would never go back to where he came from, thus, he is very serious about taking care of his money.

Drummer Ernie Severino, meanwhile, also has his own businesses including a commodities trading firm that deals with copra in Pangasinan.

As a group, Side A has invested in Suburbia, a popular night stop in Malate where the band also performs regularly.

"We just celebrated our second anniversary and we are doing well. We are not involved in the day to day operations but we sit on the board and we do make suggestions to make it better," Generoso says.

Side A manager Wyngard Tracy says he is proud that all members of the Side A band have their own houses and have already provided well for their children. He says this will ensure that they will continue to live comfortably even after they say goodbye to Side A.

"I always tell them to be wise with money because I have seen many famous show biz personalities leave the business with almost nothing to their names. This is because they spent all their money when they were famous, with no thought for tomorrow," he says.

Tracy explains that show business is filled with temptations. He says many personalities, especially those who came from humble beginnings, tend to be overwhelmed by the sudden flow of cash.

"This is why I always tell my talents to save and I am happy that the people of Side A, at least, all have houses and have set aside money for their children," he says.

Working together

(From page C3)

plant life or health; the protection of the environment; the prevention of deceptive practices and the protection of its essential security interests.

This must not deteriorate into protectionism. Imported products should be given no less favorable treatment than that accorded to products of national origin and to the same products originating from any other country.

During the Ramos administration, there was a consolidated attempt to open up the economy, which was beneficial to the Philippine business climate as well as to foreign investors. The attitude was that the Philippines should use new technology to compete in the global market. Otherwise, the country would be left in the backwater of global economies. There is no doubt that this requires both assistance and investment from outside the country.

We also feel that the labor laws and immigration laws and procedures are archaic. They date back to 1948.

There is a real need for them to be updated, streamlined and modernized. If things could be simplified while still being done properly, it would bring in more investors. It might put a great many lawyers out of work, which may be one good reason for not doing anything about long, involved and difficult to understand procedures.

The Department of Labor and Employment has been discussing changes for two or three years. But nothing has been done to streamline the regulations as yet.

There doesn't seem to be a champion, either, in government or the private sector, to push for changes to help the investment climate. One is really needed.

We would like to see more reciprocity. If a Philippine citizen can obtain a five-year working visa (treaty trader) in the United States (or any other country) it seems only fair that an American (or any nationality) should be accorded the same privilege in the Philippines.

There is a great deal that can be done, within the framework of the existing laws and regulations, to improve the trade between our two countries. We will continue to work with our host country to bring this about.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a member of Management Association of the Philippines and executive director of American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

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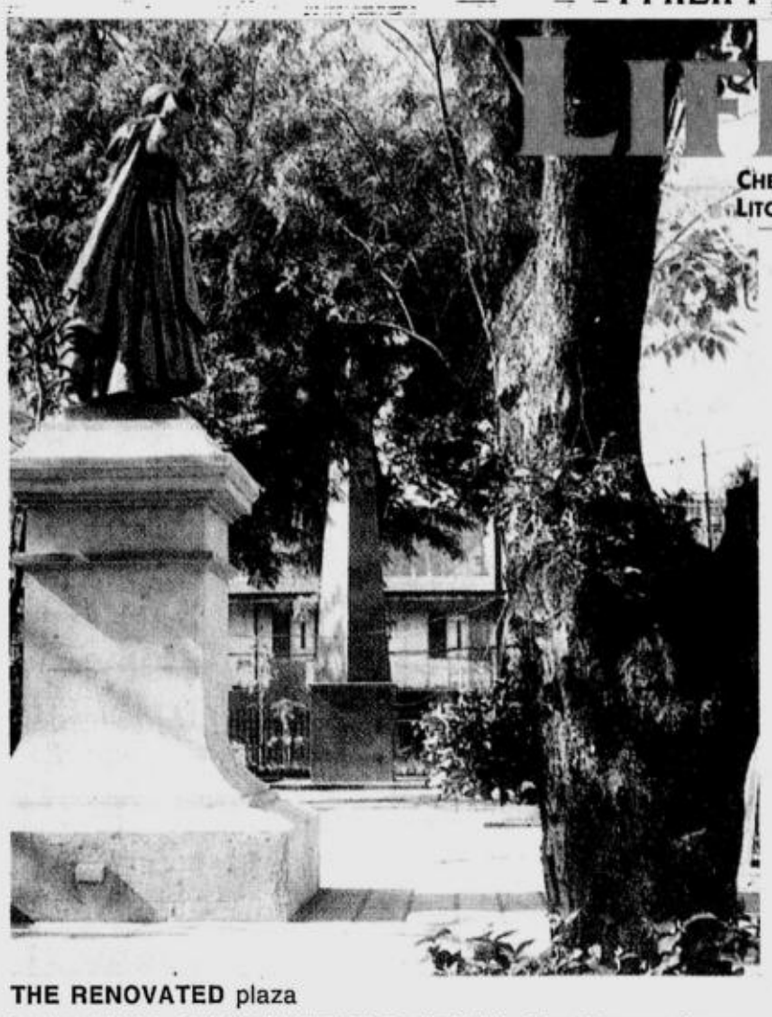
Art + Design

Intramuros landmark rises from the urban grave



THE RENOVATED plaza

PLAZA Santo Tomas in a postcard at the turn of the last century

BY ELDRIC PAUL A. PEREDO
Contributor

TWO years ago, on Calle Sto. Tomas in Intramuros, no one would have cared to take a look at that area between the Colegio de Santa Rosa and the BF Condominium. And who could blame anyone? The piece of land, which extends a whole block from Magallanes Street to Solana Street, was a veritable mess. The trees and grass were left to grow unchecked, while vendors and street urchins contributed to the clutter and the general atmosphere of collapse and decrepitude.

Now, that space has been finally recognized for the national treasure and heritage that it really is. That site is the old Plaza Sto. Tomas, once an open space that provided much-needed air and relaxation for weary students of the old Colegio de Sto. Tomas (now the University of Santo Tomas) as well as the public. After many years of neglect, the plaza has finally undergone a massive reconstruction to bring out once again its pristine form.

In 1998, in line with the celebration of the Philippine Centennial, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) issued a memo

INTRAMUROS/ p.D2

Plaza Santo Tomas, an old Walled City hangout during a more genteel era, has been rescued from the urban blight, restored and given a new lease in life

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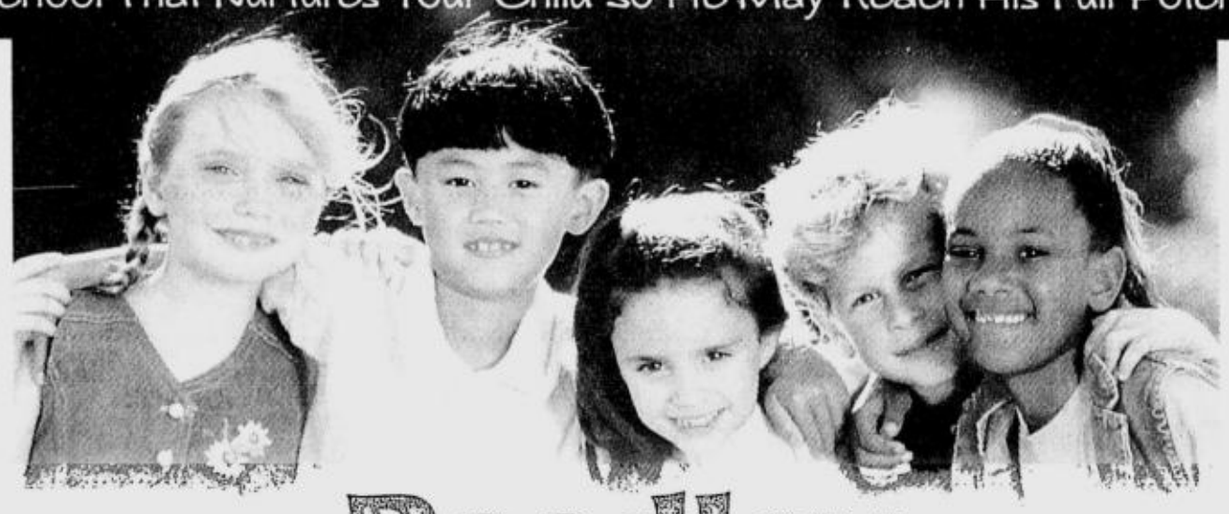

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Intramuros landmark rises from the urban grave

(From page D1)

randum to schools whose alumni were part of the assembly that framed the 1899 Malolos Constitution. The CHED asked the schools to confer honorary degrees on the delegates to the historic convention in recognition of the roles they played in the establishment of Asia's first republic.

Out of approximately 193 members, only 89 signed the final draft of the constitution, which was authored by Felipe Calderon. Fifty-three of these signatories, including Calderon, studied at UST. But instead of conferring honorary degrees on its alumni, the university decided to build a lasting monument to their memory. After much deliberation, the Plaza de Sto. Tomas in Intramuros was chosen as the venue.

Perfect

The area of the plaza, which is about the size of three private lots, was bought by the old Colegio de Sto. Tomas. The Dominicans, the religious order that founded and managed the college, had thought of converting it into a garden and a cemetery. Apparently, only the garden materialized, providing a breathing space for the students.

BENAVIDES statue facing BF Condominium, the old site of UST. The plaza is fenced with black neoclassic grillwork accented by the gold-tinted Aquinian sun, symbol of wisdom.

FR. Antonio Aureada, O.P., who led the committee to renovate Plaza Santo Tomas

PHOTOS BY KENNETH TAGABAN

The plaza was perfect for the Dominicans because it was bounded by Dominican institutions. Across UST (where BF Condominium now stands) was the Colegio de Santa Rosa run by the Dominican sisters (the school is still there). Bounding the plaza on the west was the old Santo Domingo Church (where the Bank of the Philippine Islands now stands). Farther west was the Colegio de San Juan de Letran (which is still there).

The city of Manila acquired the plaza from the university in the 1850s and converted it into a public park. The city government had planned to install in it a statue of Queen Isabel II, but this did not apparently materialize. That of Manila Archbishop Miguel de Benavidez, O.P., considered the founder of UST for having bequeathed the endowment that started the school, stood in its stead. The plaza was destroyed in World War II, but not after the statue of the archbishop was transferred to UST's present location in Sampaloc, Manila.

After the issuance of the CHED memorandum, UST rector Rev. Fr. Tamerlane Lana, O.P, created a committee to map ways of honoring the Thomasian framers of the Malolos Constitution. Rev. Fr. Jose Antonio Aureada, O.P., vice rector for academic affairs, was named chair.

In a meeting with the press, Father Aureada said the renovation of the plaza began last March. Before that, the university had sought the approval of the Intramuros Administration (IA). He said the construction was not exclusively done by the university; it was a joint effort between UST, the IA and the National Historical Institute (NHI).

The total cost of the renovation was P2 million, which Father Aureada said, came from donations.

Research

A lot of research had to be done for the reconstruction of the plaza. Father Aureada stressed that everything had to be done to make the oblong plaza look as close to the original as possible. Old publications had to be dug up to find out how the fence looked like, for example, and how tall the statue should be.

Designed by architect Manuel Cueto, former assistant dean of the UST College of Architecture, the renovated plaza, aside from having a replica of the Benavidez statue on the spot where the original statue stood, has an obelisk on one extreme and an octagonal structure on the other.

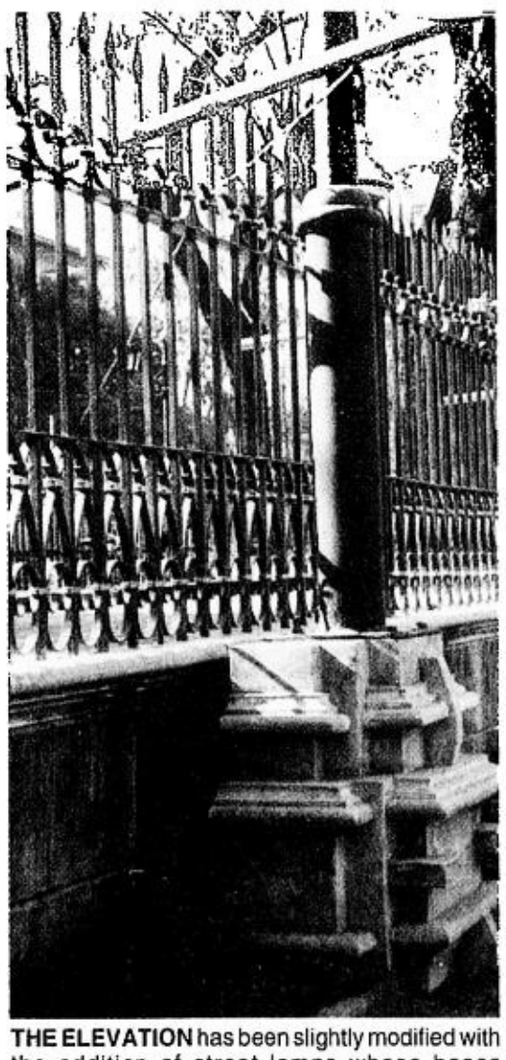
The base of the obelisk contains the list of the framers of the Malolos Constitution, with the names of Thomasian alumni highlighted. The NHI will also put a marker on one side to give recognition to the spot's historical significance. Meanwhile, mounted in bronze on the octagonal structure on the other extreme are pictures of the old UST and the Plaza Sto. Tomas as they originally were.

Acacias have replaced the palm trees, and the plaza is also fenced to keep out vandals. The gates will be only be opened by guards only during the day and closed at night. In the old plaza, only the statue of Benavidez was fenced. The new plaza is also slightly elevated to enhance its magnificence.

The slight elevation of the plaza also makes it ideal as a stage for cultural shows. For this purpose, the design of the surrounding fence allows parts to be removed at the northern side, near the octagonal structure. UST will use it from time to time, Father Aureada said, but it will also be open to other organizations for a price. He said that the proceeds will be used to maintain the plaza, split evenly between UST and the IA, as is stated in the memorandum of agreement.

The only problem encountered during the construction was the relocation of the vendors. This, Father Aureada said, was part of the MOA between UST and the IA. He explained they tried as much as possible to lessen the costs of displacement of the vendors. Only a few stalls will be allowed in the vicinity. Plaza guards will enforce this and make sure that the vendors do not despoil the place.

The reborn Plaza Sto. Tomas will be inaugurated and blessed on Jan. 25 at 10 a.m. Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin will lead the blessing. President Macapagal-Arroyo has been asked to unveil the plaza and the monument.



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Wish list for the arts in 2002

BY GINO DORMIENDO
Contributor

THE YEAR just ended was a time of great upheavals and spectacular showdowns. It was a year that saw the quintessential battle between good and evil. For us Filipinos long familiar with the invaluable lessons of Edsa (which, it is claimed, unleashed the pro-democracy tide in the 1980s and 1990s), it was time to confront the hydra-headed monster called economic recession. The crisis particularly affected the average wage earner, whose legendary resilience was tested to its limits and, God and Gloria willing, will once again be put to the test this year.

Art, being a worthy ally of life in the best of times, is likewise put to its severest test in the worst of times, when one's disposable income cannot be disposed of merely for art's sake. It was, from all indications, an unfortunate year for art-making and art buying: Supply far outnumbered demand.

But given the generally bleak state of affairs, the local art scene did manage to overcome the odds. Not everything was A-okay in the art scene, given the bickering and politicking by its members. But art's survival was not a mean feat: Galleries stuck to their calendars, cocktails went on as scheduled, and artists persevered in their work, buyers or no buyers.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Hoping far

Here are my personal wishes in the Year of the Horse, so that art may gallop far beyond the horizon.

First, that the National Commission for Culture and the Arts remain committed to making art accessible to all. Though politics has reared its ugly head at the NCCA, with a non-artist as executive director, we can only hope that chair Jaime Laya will remain in his post. We hope the commission will adhere to a policy of transparency and genuine merit in its awards and grants program, as the NCCA has undoubtedly done over the last years of Laya's stewardship.

Second, that the Art Association of the Philippines, the country's premier art organization, be finally freed of petty and fractious intramurals, and ultimately rise to the challenge of leading Philippine art to its highest possible goal. The AAP Annual has sorely deteriorated in quality over the years, its prestige tainted by a leadership that must show it can uphold professionalism and promote the cause of Philippine art.

Third, the Cultural Center of the Philippines unequivocally open its doors to new, unknown and emerging artists working in nontraditional media, as expected of the country's leading arts venue. We recall the times of the late CCP curator Ray Albano more than 20 years ago when the CCP found room for all forms of art, its tolerance was at its highest level and the art scene was far livelier than it is today.

Fourth, that art galleries finally learn to do their business with an eye for setting truly professional standards. As galleries have mushroomed in Metro Manila, particularly in shopping malls, a number of them have lost sight of their most basic function: to raise the art consciousness of the public. A good number have to go beyond doing rehashed exhibits of recycled works and educate the public on the value of art in shaping the public life.

Not to be used

Fifth, that true artists will finally stop allowing themselves to be used unscrupulously for some dubious undertaking and patronage. We know that with the help of their rich patrons, artists think that they, too, can buy prestige and respectability. In the final reckoning, only true talent matters.

Sixth, that collectors and buyers, too, will learn to respect the gallery's proprietary rights over the artists. We, of course, know that given the extreme difficulties last year, which will perhaps remain this year, art has become a virtual test of nerves, the *matira-ang-matibay* syndrome; but in this situation, only talent, not one-upmanship, must be promoted and rewarded.

Seventh, that the media provide ample space for the arts, perhaps not just a weekly coverage, but decidedly more frequent and regular than usual, disseminating intelligent coverage of the arts as what the leading broadsheets (like the INQUIRER) have pursued as a matter of policy.

Eighth, that the choice of the National Artist Award become a yearlong concern to the broadest sector of the art community so that all questions pertaining to the qualifications of candidates can be answered in due time, rather than be left to the final nod of the powers that be. And please, this must be done in utmost transparency rather than kept from the public eye.

Ninth, that the art community finally put an end to its fractious ways, which have been the bane of the arts all these years. There are just too many art organizations with no common goal save to make their likes visible to the public. There are just too many award-giving bodies, as in film and broadcasting, even where there is little semblance of excellence. And just too many contests with little, if any, deserving winners.

Which brings us to our final wish: for art to lift the spirit and become an instrument for illuminating the human condition. In these dark and dreary times, when everything has become incomprehensible to us ordinary mortals, we can only have art as our loyal and loving muse, and we shall, like the horsemen of the Apocalypse, come galloping into the horizon and proudly, as we have done, overcome all the odds.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

Art criticism workshop offers fellowships

THE BIENVENIDO N. Santos Creative Writing and Research Center of De La Salle University-Manila is inviting young critics to apply for fellowship to "Kritika 2002," the first art criticism workshop in the country. In cooperation with the University of St. La Salle-Bacolod and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, this workshop will be held May 9-16. Isagani R. Cruz is workshop director.

The workshop will focus on critical writing in literature, theater, film, dance, music, architecture and the visual arts.

It is envisioned to give young writers who want to commit themselves to art criticism a forum where they can discuss their work and concerns with critics in the country.

Ten applicants will be chosen for the fellowships, which will include transportation stipend and free board and lodging at Balay Kalinungan of the University of St. La Salle.

Those interested must submit and address their application to: Dr. Marjorie Evasco, director, Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing and Research Center, De La Salle University, 2401 Taft Ave., Manila 1004.

The application should include the following: cover letter, a good copy of one published critical paper, curriculum vitae with a 2x2" ID photo and self-addressed stamped envelope. Deadline for submission is on Feb. 16. Those selected for the fellowships will be notified by mail.

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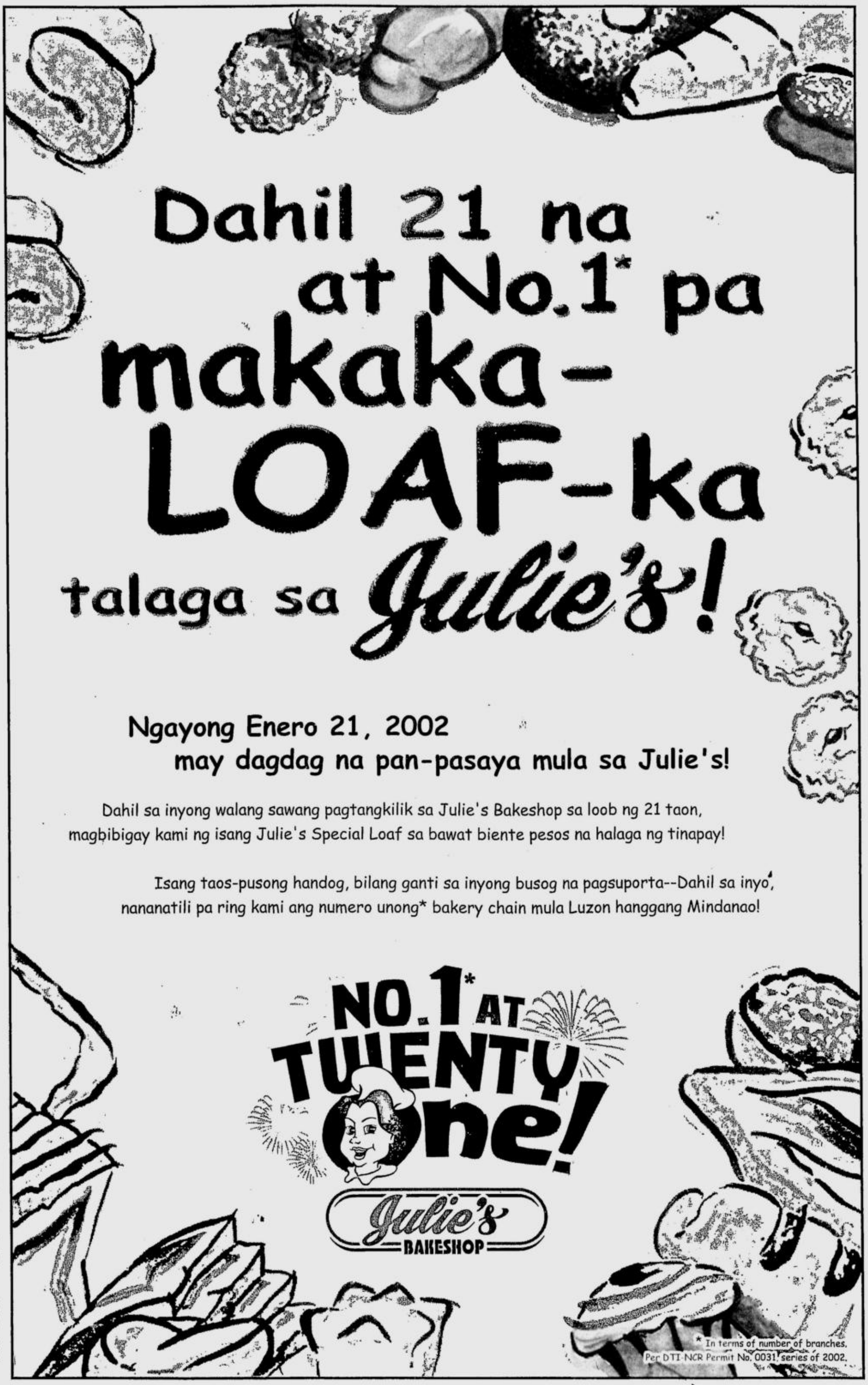
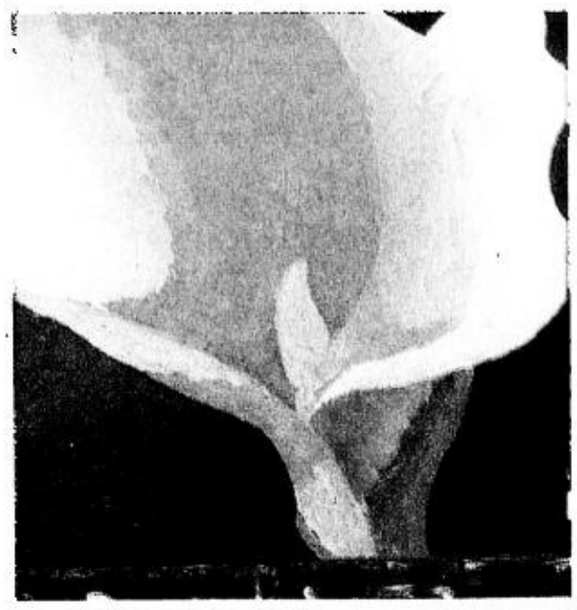
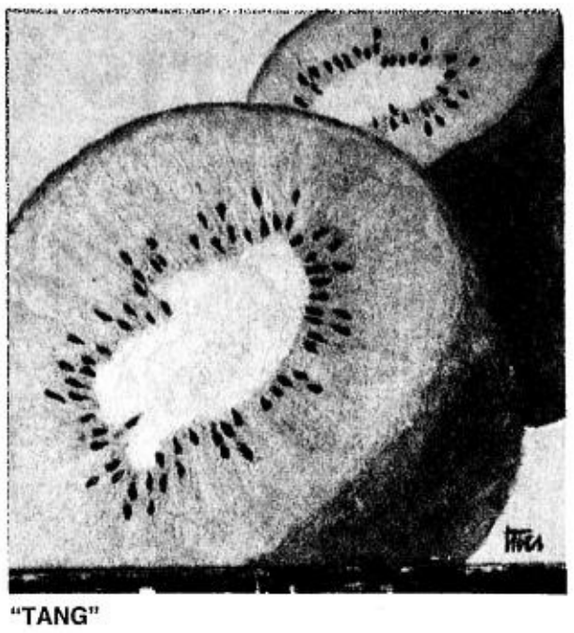


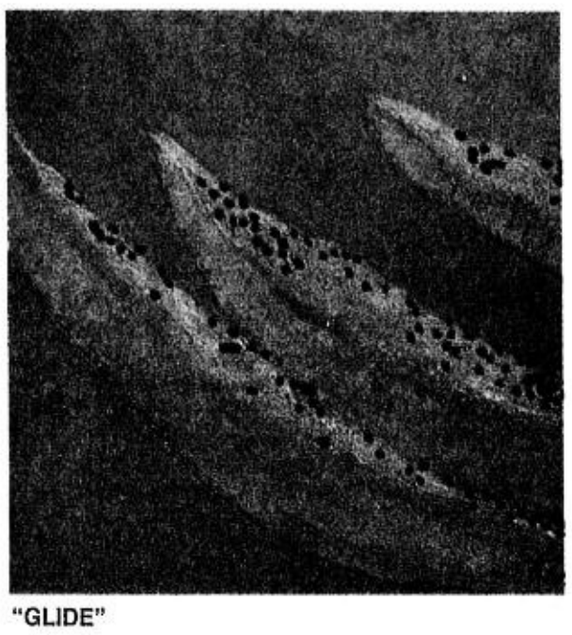


"THE JOURNEY of Jessica"

"THE HAVEN of Juan"



"TANG"



"GLIDE"

The colors of light in the emergent works of Tres Roman

BY OSCAR V. CAMPOMANES
Contributor

IT is always the driving desire of art appreciation to place a painter within a tradition, to relate the artist's visual signature to the styles of which it can be said to have sprung or to be reminiscent, to read the aesthetic footnotes that the artist is certain to pay to the specific and formative influences upon his or her formation, no matter if these may only take the form of subliminal tics unconsciously throbbed into the artist's brush strokes. But with an artist like Tres Roman, these cannot be with complete ease or smug confidence.

Although Roman, whose first show opens on Jan. 25 at Gallery Nine in Makati, admits to generally looking to H.R. Ocampo for simple affinity, to Henri Matisse for forms, to Fernando Zobel for abstraction, and to Vincent Van Gogh for colors, it is difficult to define clear lines of descent and to limn skeins of translation between his work and pertinent aspects of the work of his "masters" (the word "models" is inadequate to describe the genealogical relationship of his work to theirs). This illegibility of his work is more a function—it would seem to anybody familiar with Roman's genesis—or of Roman's own uncanny instincts for art appreciation than the fact that, by force of circumstance, he did not have sustained exposure to art establishment culture and the benefit of a formal artistic apprenticeship. And rather than a handicap, the latter fact is what simply accounts for the refreshing innocence (one can daresay, positively: obliviousness) and the demotic quality of his image-making and images.

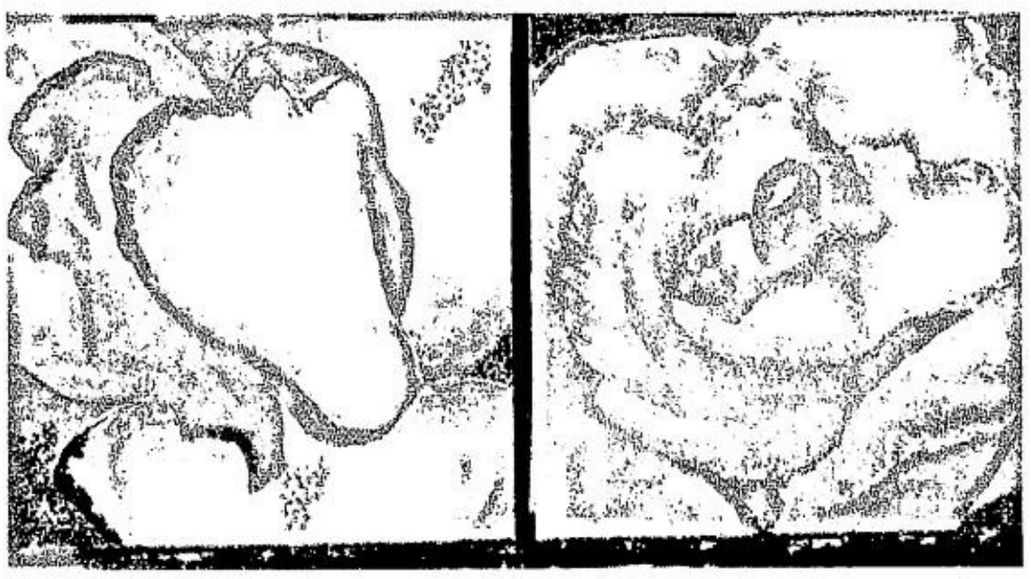
Striking

One thing common to nearly all the works on exhibit is the artist's striking use of color and color contrasts, quite apart from the figurative precision immediately notable for several of the pieces. (And in "Sagad Hanggang Anit," "Wakasan Itutuloy..." and "Bonanza," one is also immediately hailed and surprised by the artist's act of endowing two of the women, the girl, and the boys with fish eyes—for emphasis it is true; but one cannot already but wait, with a quick sense of anticipation, for future works in which facial features and bodily countenance will be the object of the painter's now already extensively promising disfigurative flourishes.)

The most searing of passions, the pungency of sexual desire, the placidity of the private and the intimate, the startling colors of flight, the plain-spokenness of love for family and friends—these are just some of the emotional and sensorial verities evoked by this unusual corpus of inaugural works by a new artist.

"SAGAD Hanggang Anit"

The works of an exciting new artist take us into places of unfettered desire and zones of benign lucidity



"JOSE in Exile" (left) and "The Antiphon of Amada"

Whether they are of fruit (kiwi, mangosteen, papaya) or bitter gourd *(ampalaya)* sliced open or cut with precision, the bleeding of their juices stoppered—as the fruit or gourd look "stunned," as it were—by the deliberate incisiveness of the artist's visual blade, or they are of butterflies shown in full kaleidoscopic glory, in an attitude of momentary repose, or even in a dance-like copulation with blossoms ripe for the pick and the sip, these works take us into places of unfettered desire and zones of benign lucidity.

Whether they interpret sexual seduction and consummated pleasure in the form of arrestingly colored and finely delineated *gumamela,* rose and sunflower, or as if by an unpredictable turn, they depict familiar scenes of daily living: an older woman delousing the blue-black tresses of an adolescent girl, or mothers and sons whose umbilical ties to one another remain uncut and, in fact, are rewound tightly by the mothers' unmoved absorption either in *komiks*, reading or bingo-playing, these paintings introduce us to the exuberant contrasts (and commonalities) between the primordial and the quotidian.

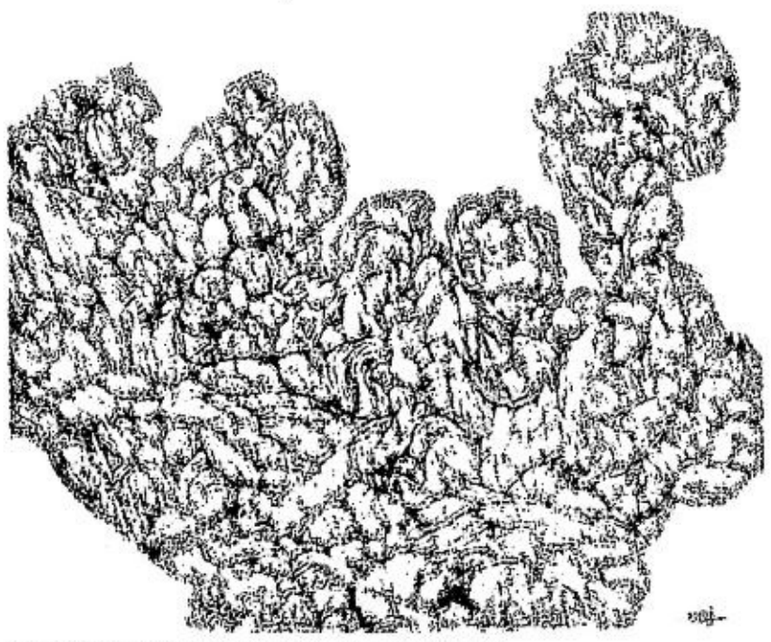
Whether they delicately nuance the artist's floral homage to three feminine figures in his life (wife Carmi, mother and woman-friend/patroness Jessica) in chromatically grafted close-ups of tulip, cattleya, calla lily, or, yet again with a certain randomness, usher us into ground-level and arbitrarily colored/cropped views of the sacrosanct imaginary havens of the artist and his man-friend/patron Juan's, or his son Hugo's "Neverland," these canvases provoke us in certain affective intensities, and that intermingling of ambivalence and awe at being allowed a privileged peek—in often surprising chromatic schemes editorially deployed by the artist—into the deepest recesses of the highly personal, those parts of the artist's inner life and precious loves which he otherwise would have shielded with his life from the viewer's invasive scrutinies.

These oil paintings of varying but determinately squared dimensions are all redolent with personal meaning. They are all revelations. "Of what?" one might ask; although perhaps, this is an indelicate question. For in the case of Tres Roman, arguably, we ponder upon a paradox or a series of paradoxes. In the first place, before this first exhibition with which he emerges, we know precious little or next to nothing about the artist. Why, then, the claim of ability to determine the highly "revealing" aspect of the man's work without adequate foreknowledge? (It is like saying that an English translation of a gripping Latin-American magical-realist novel is excellent without having read its original language incarnation and without fluency in its source language.) A pat answer, but one a sympathetic critic is likely to stand pat on, is this: from the incontestable evidence of these paintings, the artist Tres Roman, like his beautifully observed butterflies, is already fully grown, and not the chrysalis we usually expect any newly emergent artistic talent to resemble.

Tres Roman's first solo exhibit entitled "Square One" will open on Jan. 25 at Gallery Nine, 150 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-2704.

The author is chair and Alfredo Litiatco professor of the Department of Literature and Philippine Languages at De la Salle University, where he teaches critical theory, critical writing, semiotics, postcolonialism and cultural studies.

Sansó's primeval landscapes at Finale and Drawing Room, Drilon's creative process at Art Center, Rothe at Duemila



"STREAMS of Thought" by Juvenal Sansó

"GRASYA" and "Tapat na Romansa" by Australian artist Martin Bridgman

VISUAL ARTS

INTERNATIONAL artist Juvenal Sansó, who has lately focused on floral still lifes, changes pace and returns to his other favorite subject, the landscape, in "Glowing Earth," on display at Finale Art Gallery (4/L, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City) until Jan. 27.

Sansó's landscapes are dreamlike, imagined and mysterious although he bases them on his memories of childhood in Manila and of his travels to Brittany in France. They have an almost primeval beauty—rugged terrain, rocks and stones, plant life, water and the sky, which is often poised between sunrise and twilight. And there is the sun/moon sphere, the eternal sentinel watching over the earth. Call 634-2410/2411.

Sansó's drawings are also on view until Feb. 6 at the Drawing Room (Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati). Call 897-6990 or –7877.

DRILON AT THE ART CENTER. Rock Drilon focuses on the creative process in "RESONuAnce," which opens on Jan. 23 at the Art Center (4/L Building A, SM Megamall). The title, a play on the word "resonance" and "nuance," attempts to convey the artist's process of creation. Drilon strives to create a dynamism and harmony between the elements at work in his paintings: reason and intuition, intellect and instinct, calculation and spontaneity. Drilon's style is inspired by the western movement of abstract expressionism assimilated into a distinct national idiom by modernist artists like his mentor, Jose Joya. But Drilon has developed his own distinct visual vocabulary and artistic philosophy that do not compromise his personal vision as an artist to the whims of the market. The exhibit runs until Feb.7. Call 831-9990 or 833-9815/633-6687.

SHOWS AT GSIS MUSEUM. The Government Service Insurance System is holding several shows at its Museum of Art. The Permanent Collection show features the works of National Artists Jose Abueva, Botong Francisco, Fernando Armorsolo, Vicente Manansala and H. R. Ocampo, together with a dozen contemporary Filipino artists. "Limbag," an exhibition of old prints from the collection of former GSIS president and general manager Federico Pascual, has been extended until March 29.

"Hilagyo," a pre-departure exhibition of the works of Filipino contemporary artists bound for Guam, will open tomorrow and run until Feb. 23.

And as part of the Philippines-Japan Friendship Month, an exhibit of contemporary Japanese ceramics by Takeshi Maruyama will run from Feb. 5 until March 31. Call 551-1301.

OLIVERIA AT DRAWING ROOM. Oliveria holds his second one-man show of recent works on paper at the Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City until Feb. 6. The exhibit features 13 contemporary abstract works typical of the artists' current concern. Call 897-6990/7877.

ROTHE AT GALLERIA DUEMILA. German artist Catrin Rothe holds "Colors of Summer" at Galleria Duemila (4/L, SM Megamall). Her subject is the native flower *gumamela,* which has had a transcendent impact on her person. Call 634-3261, 831-9990, 633-6687 or 833-9815.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT GENLUNA GALLERY. "Master's Below 100," featuring works of some of the country's top artists, opens tomorrow at Genluna Gallery (12 General Luna St., Davao City). The show, which will run until Feb 2, will feature selected works of Ang Kiukok, Tam Austria, Robert Balajadia, Greg Bolanos, Caloy Gabuco, Alvaro Jimenez, Leon Pacunayen, Raul Piedra, Rodolfo Ragodon, Ephraim Samson, Lino Severino and Jimmy Vista. Artworks on display will range from the realist to the neo-realist and the abstract and in various media: oil, watercolor, pastel and charcoal. Call (082) 226-2104 or 221-0296 (telefax).

"PAEAN to the Moment" by Rock Drilon

EDSA II AT AUSTRALIAN CENTRE. "Sa Edsa," an exhibit of works inspired by Edsa II by Australian artist Martin Bridgman, will be held Jan. 22-Feb. 22 at the Australia Centre (104 Paseo de Roxas corner Perea St., Makati City). It will be officially opened by Australian Ambassador John Buckley Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow. Call 754-6173 or 893-0807 (fax).

AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS. "Arandungaoo It Bur-Burak," an art installation of birds and flowers by Australian artist Techy Masero, is currently on view at Simpocan, Puerto Princesa, Palawan. Masero is in the Philippines under a Kawing art residency along with three other artists, Winsome Jobling, Dennis Bezzant and Jacki Fleet from Darwin, Australia.

CRUZ AT THE ATENEO GALLERY. "ArtSpeak," the Ateneo Art Gallery's continuing series of talks by significant artists, will feature Filipino-Australian painter Maria Cruz. The lecture is open to the public and admission is free. The Ateneo Art Gallery is at G/F, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC. Call 426-6001, local 4160.

The feel of silk, the flash of brass

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

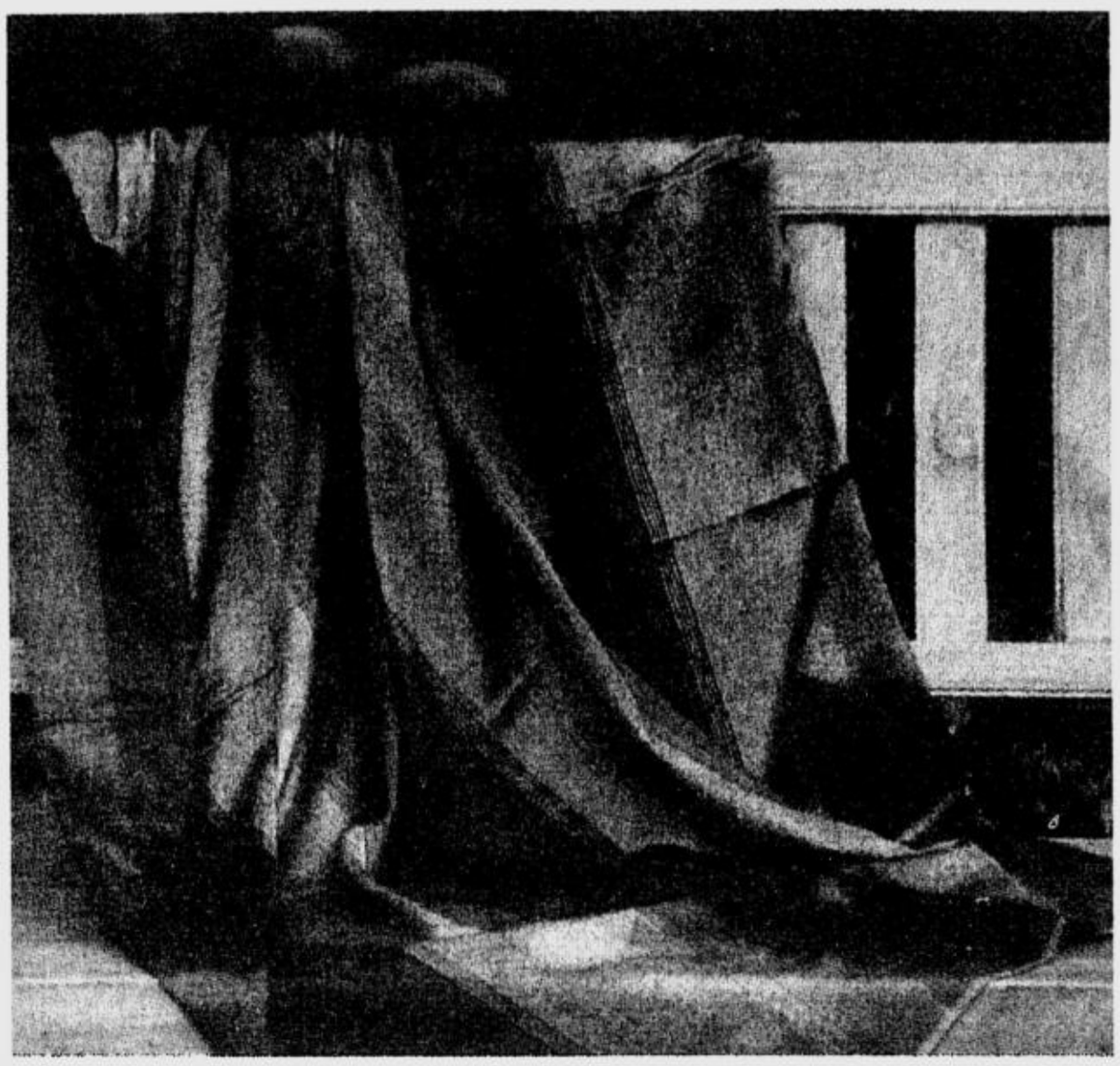
IN MINDANAO, only the Muslim weavers used silk, to which they had access due to their extensive trading network. Throughout the Philippines, only the Muslims produce brass."

That note serves as a prelude, placed at the entrance, to the exhibit "Silk and Brass: Highlights of the Datu Mastura Collection." Presented by the Museum Volunteers of the Philippines to celebrate its 20th anniversary, and coinciding with the National Museum's centennial, the show is ongoing until Jan. 26 at the Museum of the Filipino People in Agrifina Circle, Manila.

It showcases the cultural and artistic achievements of the Magindanao, the People of the Flooded Plain, who live in the vicinity of Pulangi River; and the Maranao, the People of the Lake, those living around Lake Lanao, the country's largest lake. These inhabitants of Southern Mindanao are noted for their artistry in mat and textile weaving, metalwork and woodcarving.

According to the exhibit catalog, most of the objects displayed here are family heirlooms of the Mastura clan of the Magindanao royalty. Many come from the collection of Museum Volunteers of the Philippines member Lourdes Mastura, wife of Datu Michael Mastura.

The *datu* is a great-great grandson of Sultan Muhamad Dipatwan Kudarat, "the most powerful ruler in Mindanao in the 17th century, the undisputed suzerain of the great river valley settlements."



THE RAINBOW *malong*: "Its colored stripes blend gently one into the next in a reflection of the rainbow as it emerges from the clouds to shine in front of the sun." PHOTOS FROM THE CATALOG "THE MALONG STORY"

Resplendent things

Across the hall, interspersing with the multicolored strips of fabric hung in glass casements, are objects of brass and wood placed on pedestals, some of them also encased in glass. Brass objects are said to be an indication of royalty, prestige, wealth and power.

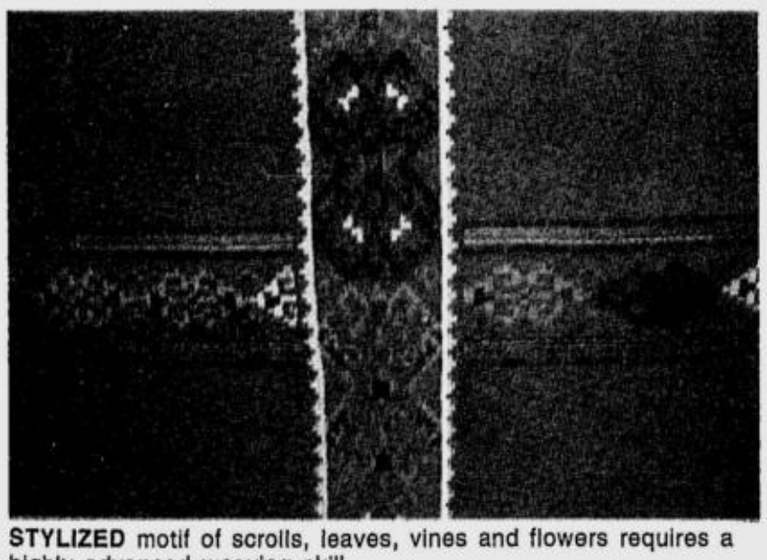
A humble cooking utensil, the *kodin*, or rice cooking pot, has been transformed into a resplendent thing, its globular body displaying stylized floral and leaf motifs, its four handles ornamented in openwork.

Most esteemed of the brassware is the *gadur*, a stately jarlike container that often comes in pairs. It is inlaid with silver decorations of okir scrolls, geometric lozenges or diamonds, triangles, its cover surmounted by tall minaret-style handles.

Three types of blade are common to Southern Philippines: *barang*, a leaflike blade with fine wooden handle shaped like a serpenthead; *kampilan*, a large sword similar to the cutlass; and *kris*, a double-edged blade with both sides wavy, to simulate the undulating body of the mythical serpent *naga*.

Except for the *kampilan*, the blades are displayed prominently on the wall and the pedestal. Of particular interest is the *kris*' scabbard of wood with silver trimmings and okir designs, inlaid with antique American 10-cent coins. A sultan's paraphernalia and sign of rank, the *kris* represents the owner in his absence in ceremonies, and is accorded the same respect and honor as if he were present.

SHIFTING patterns of lavender and black as the fabric moves, shimmers or changes direction



STYLIZED motif of scrolls, leaves, vines and flowers requires a highly advanced weaving skill.

OBJECT of envy: A weaver's sensitivity to the nuances of color

Crowning glory

There is also a carved-wood figure of the *sarimanok*, used as gable or grave marker. With outspread wings and carrying a fish in its beak or claws, the birdlike creature is a symbol of the sky and earth that keeps the universe in balance, says a note on the display. "It expresses the wholeness, the goodness, and the perfection of the universe."

In a corner is a pedal frame loom, with wooden weft and warp winders with okir carvings. This is where those malongs of cotton, linen or synthetic fabric, but mostly of silk, come from.

That tubular skirt or sarong wrapped around the body and worn throughout Southeast Asia is considered the crowning achievement of the textile weaver's creativity. It is the traditional dress of the Muslims of Southern Philippines.

Illustrated with mannequins and photographs are the two most popular styles for wearing the *malong*: *tinambed*, tied around the waist, for both men and women; *sinambit*, tied on the shoulder, for women only.

About 40 *malongs* are being displayed, most of which created by weavers of royal lineage. Near the entrance is a plain weave of magenta with thin white stripes, woven in 1953 by Ong Sankim, Datu Mastura's mother, for his 13th birthday, coinciding with his circumcision.

High culture

The oldest *malong* in the exhibit was woven for a Magindanao *datu* in the first half of the 19th century. Its design pattern includes a motif of eight-pointed stars and bands of triangles, done in a weave "so fine it might be mistaken for embroidery."

Here are *malongs* of green and magenta, the rare colors turquoise and orange and yellow (indicating they were woven for individuals of high status), red, brown and indigo—varicolors emerging from a bath of natural dyes or a mud dye.

The weave patterns are just as varied: framed rotating object, star, butterfly, bird, lightning, lozenge forms, fern, left and right elbows, *pattipat* (repeat pattern of fours), *broa* (baked delicacy), arabesque forms, eyes, tree of life, flowers, snake, trellis flowers, *gabi* plant.

The exquisite objects, their delicate patterns and complicated designs point to the high culture these people have attained, astonishing even by today's standards.

And the exhibit's pièce de résistance—the *torogan* or sultan's residence, decorated with textiles, brassware, woodcarvings, a platform-type bed with canopy of ornate motif, with its hierarchy of arrangement of objects and positioning of personages—not only points to a high level of civilization but also shows how royally Filipinos can live.

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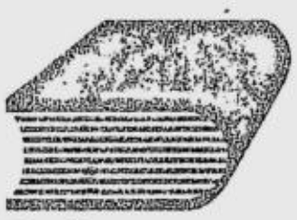
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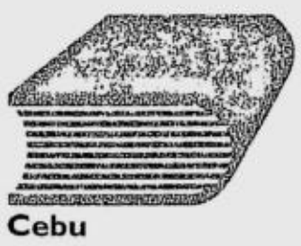
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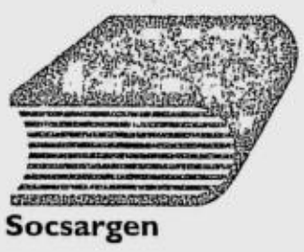
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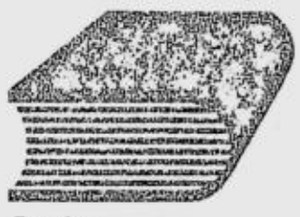
Cavite

Cotabato

Zamboanga

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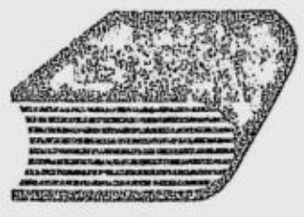
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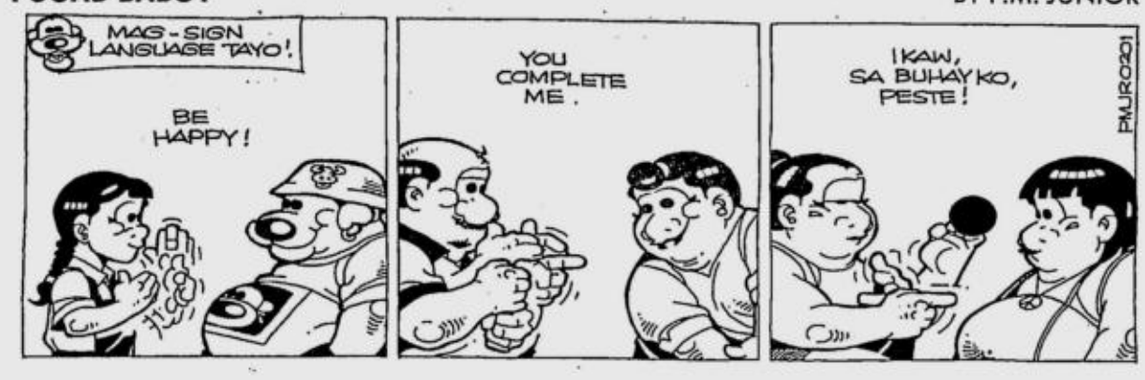

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HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emma Lee Bunton, Geena Davis, Steve Reeves, Placido Domingo

Happy Birthday: You will be more compassionate and giving to those you love this year. Your ability to adjust to whatever situation arises will give you an edge. You will have the energy to take on projects that others might shy away from. This can be a highly progressive year if you take the initiative. Your numbers are 3, 16, 25, 34, 41, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may want to keep a low profile today. Difficulties with your peers will arise due to disagreements. Focus on that special someone in your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Visit old friends or relatives you don't see often. Your imagination will be in overdrive so put it to good use and be creative. Let your ideas be heard.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Love and romance should be your prime concern today. Your ability to interact with others and communicate intellectually will attract someone who can offer you the relationship you are looking for.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You don't have to put up with someone who is forever putting you down. You should let others know how you feel and what you expect.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a look at the events going on in your community. You may want to sign up for a course being offered. You can contribute to a worthy cause with your time and knowledge.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do whatever you can to up your income through hard work or investments. You would be wise to take a look at your current position and figure out what you can do to enhance your skills.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Problems will arise if you have too much time on your hands. Romantic opportunities are present but you will have to take the initiative.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Greater discipline will give you what you need to finish what you start. You will have to think on your feet in order to take advantage of an extraordinary chance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make lucrative financial moves if you are willing to act on your gut feeling today. You will feel the need to get involved in some form of physical activity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be feeling the pressure at home if you have fallen behind where your responsibilities are concerned. Be prepared to pick up the slack and do a little extra.

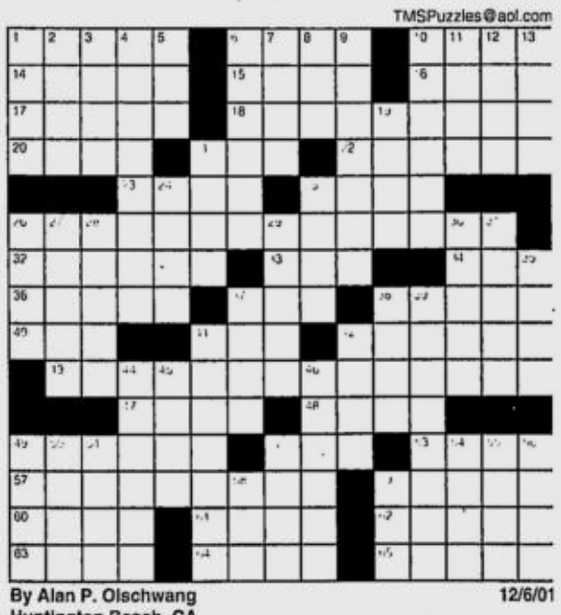
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The more you do to fine-tune your job the more secure your position will become. Become involved with your colleagues to better understand what they are capable of offering.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will have some great ideas and a lot of enthusiasm when it comes to how you earn your living. Your ability to charm those you do business with will be in your favor.

Birthday Baby: You are original and creative. Your prime goal is to be a leader. You are a visionary, able to implement your ideas and come up with solutions to problems.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 Fountain treat
6 Nimble
10 Punch
14 Employer
15 Medicinal plant
16 Concerning
17 Blazing
18 Start of Raymond Moley quote
20 Caper
21 June celebrant
22 Singers John and Bonnie
23 Plaintiff
25 Chow __
26 Part 2 of quote
32 Ladd and Lane
33 Foot the column
34 Pique
36 Sea eagles
37 Five before six
38 Soho so longs
40 DDE's arena
41 All the tea in China
42 Take one from Column A
43 Part 3 of quote
47 Well arranged
48 Former Peruvian currency
49 Humorist Ade
52 Sue __ Langdon
53 Fast food choice
57 End of quote
59 Beet extract
60 Lopsided victory
61 Greek letter
62 Proficient
63 Otherwise
64 Seed cover
65 Relinquishes

DOWN
1 Roe source
2 Sound system
3 Desiccated
4 Lantern fuel
5 Before, before
6 Most of Mali
7 Stated one's case
8 Ticket info
9 Kind of statement
10 An atoll
11 Part of RPI
12 "Animal House" setting
13 __ up (admit)
19 Not of the cloth
21 New entrants into soc.
24 Functions
25 Composed
26 __ fixe
27 Scottish estuary
28 Vietnam's capital
29 Veranda
30 Saltpeter
31 Table prayer
35 Italian noble family
37 Expression of concern
38 Assay
39 Pilot's concern
41 Soloist's virtuosic part
42 Ago, in Scotland
44 Rank indication
45 Newtons' filler
46 Pertaining to direct descent
49 Al or Tipper
50 Organic compound
51 Resistance units
52 Italian wine region
54 Matured
55 Cod or Coral
56 Table scraps
58 "__ the fields we go..."
59 Pouchlike structure

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
12/6/01

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

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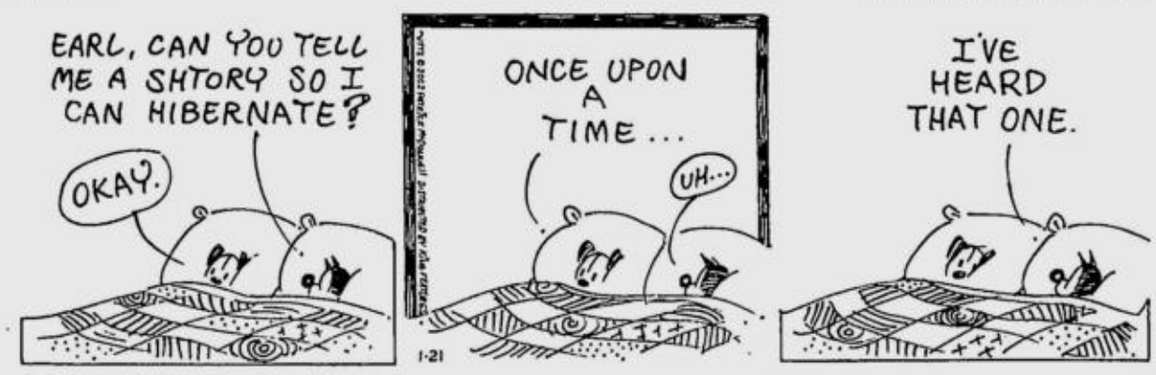
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



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Book on trafficking of Filipinas to be launched

"NIGHTMARE Journeys: Filipina Sojourns through the World of Trafficking," a book that tells the stories of 14 Filipinas who fell prey to both local and international sex traffickers, will be launched today at the Cafe J, Milky Way building, Pasay Road (now Arnaiz), Makati.

Written by INQUIRER columnist and noted women's rights advocate Rina Jimenez David, "Nightmare Journeys" was commissioned by the Unifem Philippine Committee and published by Milflores Publishing Inc.

The book was conceptualized by Unifem president Erlinda E. Panlilio to raise public awareness of the extent of the problem of trafficking of women and girls for prostitution. Twelve of the 14 women whose stories are told in the book were personally interviewed by David in an effort "to walk them through the past [to] re-imagine their reality without losing their distinct voices and views." Two other stories were culled from the book "They are So Sweet, Sir," a book on the activities of European sex traffickers written by Belgian journalist Chris de Stoop.

Foreign Undersecretary Rosario G. Manalo, who wrote the book's introduction, called trafficking in human beings "a form of modern-day slavery." Generating $8 billion a year, the trafficking of women and children for prostitution and labor exploitation is one of the fastest growing forms of international trade that feeds on poverty and the indifference of governments and societies.

David, in her foreword, shares the insight that it may not only be poverty that drives women to sex work. Many are sexually abused when very young and grow up thinking they are not worth much and are "good" only for sex work.

Copies of "Nightmare Journeys" will sell for P300 each.

Literary lecture and performances at UST

THE CENTER for Creative Writing and Studies of the University of Santo Tomas (CCWS) has lined up a series of literary activities in connection with the Pontifical University's 391st founding anniversary celebration.

On Jan. 23, CCWS will sponsor a lecture by writer-critic-teacher Dr. Isagani Cruz at 9 a.m. at the CCWS conference room (G/F St. Raymund's Building). Cruz, a recipient of the Southeast Asian Write Award, will talk on 20th-century Thomasian literature.

On Jan. 25, CCWS will hold "Tomasining—Isang Salo-salo," a night of literary readings and performances at the UST Colayco Park. To read or perform their works are Australia-based Filipina writer Merlinda Bobis, Vim Nadera, Mike Coroza, Ramil Gulle, Rebecca Anonuevo, Angelo Suarez, Mervin Espina, Lourd de Veyra and the Radioactive Sago Project. Project coordinator is historian and Palanca-winning dramatist Jose Victor Torres.

Other activities include a roundtable discussion on postcolonial theory and practice and a University Week forum on the writer and religion on Jan. 30. Call 731-3101 local 8281.

New Ateneo books

THE ATENEO Press invites you to start the new year with new books.

"May Pagsinta'y Walang Puso," a novel Iñigo Ed. Regalado wrote in 1921, lays bare the deepest emotions of Fidel, poet and newspaperman, Sela, his muse, and Euro, the richest man in Ermita. Weaving a tangled web of love, obsession and jealousy, Regalado writes with a master's command of the language.

"Reflections on Philippine Culture and Society" is a collection of essays written in honor of cultural historian William Henry Scott, and reflects his varied and lifelong interests. Edited by Jesus T. Peralta, the festschrift contains essays by Harold Conklin on Scott's life and work; Jose Mario Francisco, S.J., on language; Laura Lee Junker on 16th-century feasting; Doreen Fernandez on the food world of Miguel Ruiz; Jesus Peralta on the Sama lepa of Tawi-tawi; Fernando Zialcita on land tenure among non-Hispanized Filipinos; Nicole Revel on Palawan epics; Cayetano Sanchez on the activities of Francisco Arriaga Mateo (translated by Ma. Antonia Ortigas); John Schumacher, S.J., on agrarian developments in the 18th and 19th centuries; and Resil Mojares on the post-revolutionary transition in Cebu.

In the postcolonial world of independent nation-states, colonialism has become an embarrassment. So has slavery in the modern world. But Michael Salman in "The Embarrassment of Slavery" challenges us to look at this issue especially in the light of our colonial past. In three parts, Salman examines how the problem of slavery figured in the debate over American presence in the country, the beginnings of slavery in Moro societies and its persistence into the 20th century, and the tense relation among Philippine nationalism, anti-slavery ideology and American colonial rule.

The books are available at National Bookstore, Powerbooks and Solidaridad, and at the Press offices at the Bellarmine Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC; tel. 426-5984/6001 local 4612/4613/4616; fax 426-5909; e-mail unipress@admu.edu.ph.

UP Writers' Workshop deadline extended

LIKHAAN: The UP Creative Writing Center (UP CWC) announces the extension of the deadline for submission of applications to the 40th UP National Writers Workshop to Feb. 7. The workshop will be held in UP Baguio in April. Twenty fellowships will be granted. These will cover board, lodging and a modest stipend.

Applicants may submit either six poems, two short stories, or two one-act plays for the theater. Each entry must be in one genre and one language—English, Filipino, Bikol or Iluko. An entry consisting of one story and three poems, for instance, will not be accepted.

Applicants should submit, under a pseudonym, four hard copies (computer-encoded, double-spaced) and a computer diskette copy (MS Word) of their entries. These should be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the author's real name and pseudonym, an application letter, a 2x2" ID photo, a short résumé and attestation of originality (i.e., that the entries are original works and not adapted or translated from other materials, whether local of foreign). All entries in Bikol and Iluko should also be accompanied by competent English or Filipino translation. Incomplete submissions will be disqualified. Fellows of previous UP workshops are not eligible. Fellows of other writers' workshops held after May 2001 are not eligible to apply for this workshop, and must wait till 2003.

All applications must be sent to: Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, UP National Writers Workshop, Likhaan: The UP Creative Writing Center, 2/F Bulwagang Rizal, UP Diliman, QC 1101. Call the UP CWC at 922-1830 (direct line) or 920-5301 local 7974.

Ricky Lo's 'Conversations' now a book

RICARDO Lo, more popularly known as Ricky Lo, one of the most prolific entertainment writers and show-biz commentators in the country today, has finally compiled choice pieces of his Sunday feature column into a book titled "Conversations with Ricky Lo."

The 42 pieces of "Conversations" in the book bear Lo's trademark sensitive, intelligent and penetrating style of handling interviews. Gifted with the ability to know how and when to ask just the right questions, Lo has brought show-biz writing to a different level, away from the more common and sensationalized gossip writing, adding a very distinct touch of class and competence to his trade.

According to Lo, he considers the interviews in the book as "groundbreaking pieces in which the stars interviewed reveal for the first time hitherto 'hidden' facets and/or tightly guarded 'secrets' of their lives."

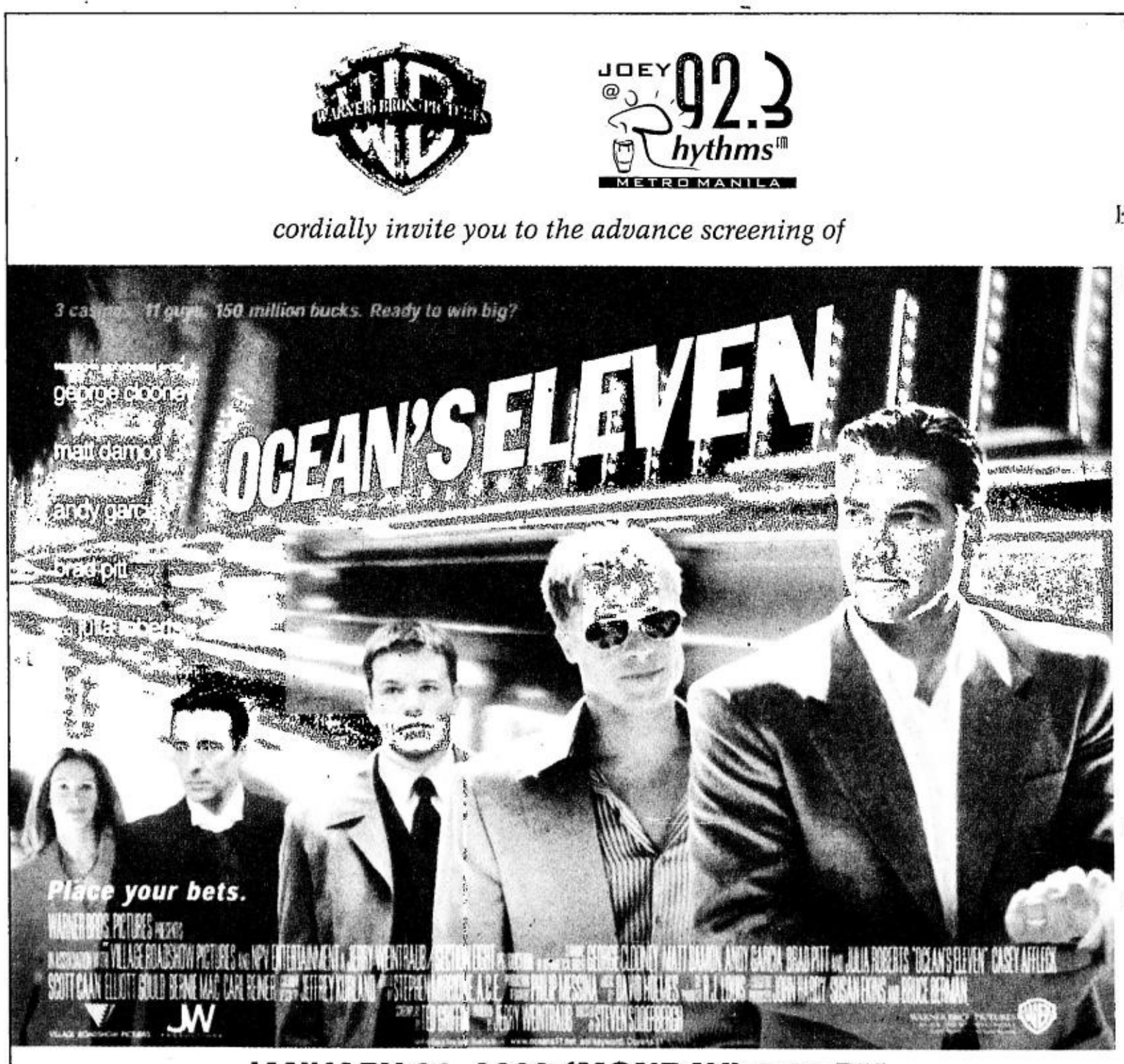
Included in the collection are interviews with the late drama queen Charito Solis, Pops Fernandez, Martin Nievera, Eddie Garcia, Susan Roces, FPJ, Dolphy, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Rustom Padilla, Carmina Villaroel, Gretchen Barretto, Gina Alajar, Hilda Coronel, Sharon Cuneta, Cesar Montano, Robin Padilla, Rosanna Roces, Anjanette Abayari, Monique Wilson, Richard and Lucy Gomez, Lea Salonga, Gloria Romero, Phillip Salvador, Dina Bonnevie, Jacklyn Jose, Gloria Diaz, to name a few.

Lo, who is a native of Las Navas, Northern Samar, finished his AB English at the University of the East in Manila. His first work as writer was with the Variety magazine of the old Manila Times. He then moved on to work in the Daily Express and then in The Manila Chronicle. He is currently with The Philippine Star, where he also writes another column called Funfare. Lo is also the author of "Star-Studded," a previous compilation of his articles on movie stars.

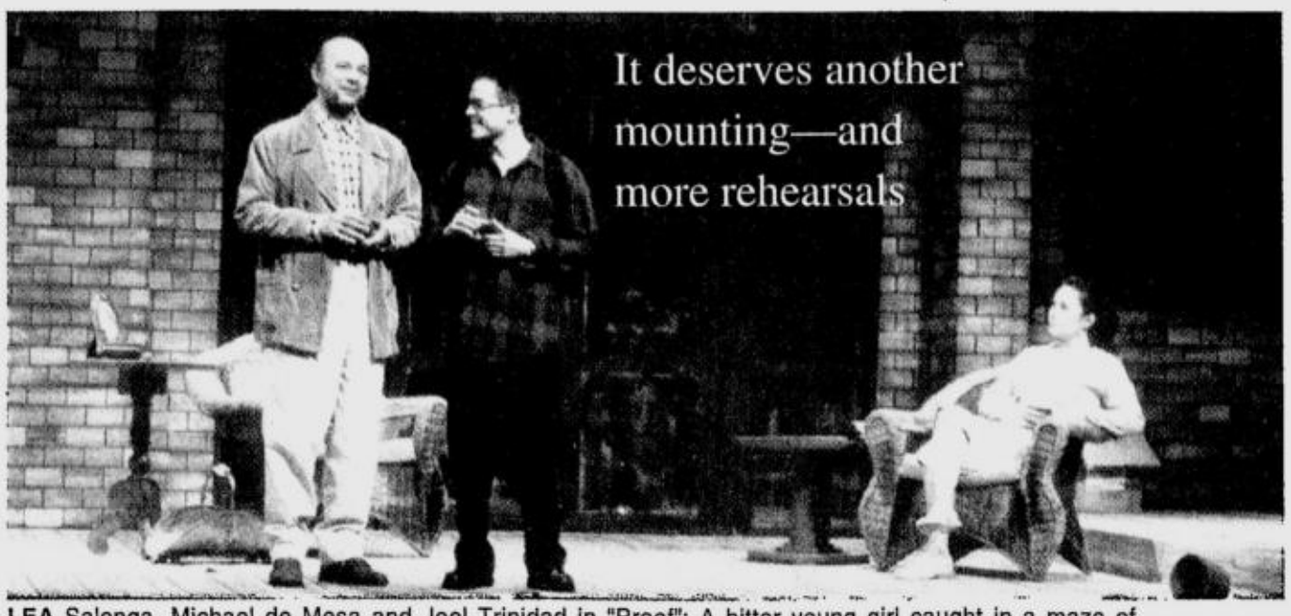
The book will be launched Jan. 28, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Cabalen Restaurant, West Avenue, QC. It is now available at National Bookstore.

How to appreciate photographs

IN CELEBRATION of Photography Week this month, PowerBooks and EyeAsia have teamed up for an engaging photo activity, "How to Read Photographs," on Jan. 21, 5-7 p.m., at PowerBooks Megamall. A two-hour session on how to better appreciate photographs and photography as a whole, this free activity is open to all. Special "early bird" prizes await the first 10 registrants (registration opens at 4:30 p.m.; preregistration will not be accepted). Call 635-2891/99 or approach the Customer Service Counter at any PowerBooks branch.



'Proof' tries but fails to make emotional connection



LEA Salonga, Michael de Mesa and Joel Trinidad in "Proof": A bitter young girl caught in a maze of relationships

BY CORA LLAMAS
Contributor

REVIEW

THERE had been a great many reasons to look forward to Atlantis Productions' "Proof."

First, it was director Bobby Garcia's return to a short but intense dramatic piece after his justly acclaimed musicals, "Rent" and "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." His "How I Learned to Drive" several years ago was short on spectacle but strong in drama. It also pried open slowly but steadily and fearlessly the taboo subjects of incest and child abuse, never sensationalizing the material, humanizing victim and predator alike. "Drive" also wonderfully teetered on the brink, making the audience recoil and at the same time holding them in its grip by the very thin line that separated love, need and abuse.

In the same way, David Auburn's material promised to run along the same lines of dramatic ambiguity. At the center of the maze of relationships was a bitter, sarcastic, yet oddly touching young girl left to carry on the pieces of her life after her genius father's death. Pre-opening publicity suggested that the heart of the drama would focus on Catherine's struggle to determine whether she has inherited her old man's genius and insanity.

Second, "Proof" would give Manila audience a chance to see Lea Salonga, the musical legend, in a nonmusical part that was a radical departure from her previous sweet ingénue roles.

Third, the three other members who formed "Proof's" supporting cast came from the cream of the crop of Manila's young theater artists: Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Philippine musical theater's leading lady who managed to shine even in the thankless, underwritten role of "Miss Saigon's" Ellen; Joel Trinidad, who started years ago playing daring roles like Caligula and since then has garnered good reviews in the Singapore theater circuit; and TV/film actor-director Michael de Mesa, whose strong turn as the lovable, gruff, gentle giant in "Rent" made this reviewer (among others) wanting to see more of him on the stage.

Distant

Sadly, though, for all these strengths, the press preview of "Proof" was a little distant, not stoking up enough dramatic charge to leave a lasting emotional connection. In the end, one could only wonder why.

Auburn's complex material was meant to provoke. Close your eyes, listen to the dialogue and you hear the beginnings of ambiguity that he wanted to explore. The series of events in the play touched on more than just the dividing line between insanity and brilliance. It also mirrored the love-hate relationships between the four characters. As written, there was enough ambiguity in the material to make the audience wonder about what really went on in the hearts and minds of the characters.

Why did Catherine (Salonga) stay and look after her father in Chicago—and then moan about it afterward—when her sister was pulling out all stops to give her a good life in New York? But then again, is Claire's (Yulo) rescue really driven by love, or does she just want to erase this part of her family life, after enduring being the nonfavored daughter for so long? Which really matters more to Hal (Trinidad): his quest for a breakthrough that can rescue his noncareer, or the love and care he's beginning to feel for Catherine? During his final days, did Robert the math genius (De Mesa) descend into insanity, or did he muster his last strength to come up with another math revolution?

All these delightful hints at hidden motivations that should have audience guessing at the end could be ascertained by listening carefully to the dialogue, not by the unfortunate underplaying. With the exception of Yulo, the actors don't quite draw us into the drama, but leave us hungering for what could have been.

Valiant

Salonga, who carries the show with 90-percent onstage time, gives a valiant effort, but in the end appears to play it safe. Her Catherine's bitchiness can be easily attributed to her being kept alone in the house, her brilliant career sacrificed in favor of her sick father's care. The so-called paranoia with which she views everyone can be seen as an understandable fatigue coupled with resentment for anyone prying into her family's privacy.

And there's the rub. Ordinary mortals who don't have Catherine's intellectual lineage can feel and act the same way, given the same problem. For all of the other characters' remarks that the girl shows Robert's same frenetic, tense behavior, we just don't see the warning of so-called possible insanity. Claire's revelation of her plans to let her kid sister see a psychiatrist does not bring portent or suspicion; we just wonder why.

Trinidad does well as the agitated math has-been in search of the Holy Grail. But again, he comes off as too clean. Even his internal conflicts, when he seems to have found it, still show a lot of concern for Catherine. A little more shade of darkness could have left us hanging at the end as to his true loyalties—and, given the ending, more depth and meaning.

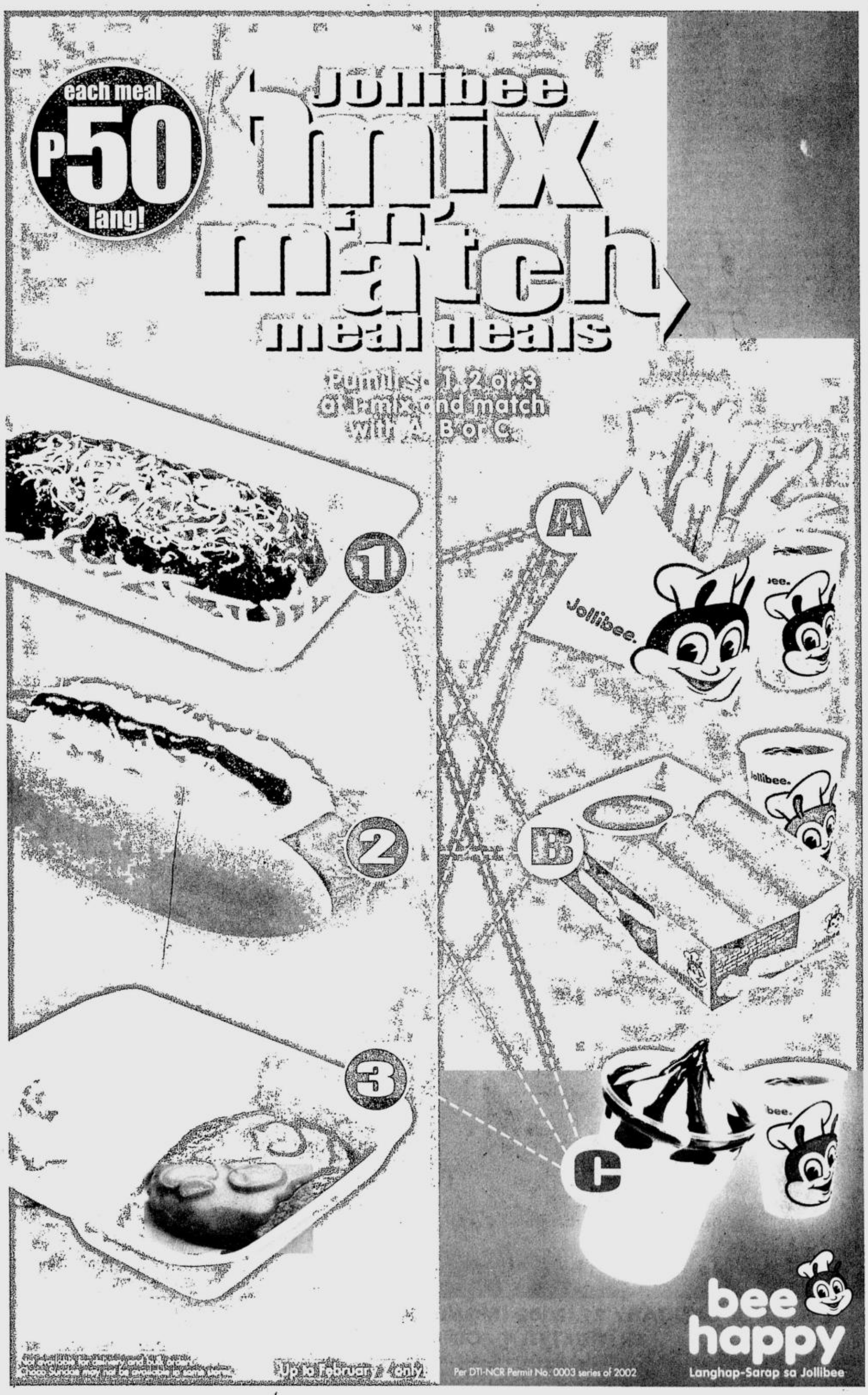
De Mesa's quiet, confident Robert almost reflects Salonga's Catherine. With all the talk of insanity and brilliance, we just don't see the former. The last scenes of his last days only show an old man trying to capture what he thought was his glory days.

Only Yulo's Claire truly evolved. From the average-minded, even airhead stranger who stumbles in her feeble attempts to reach out to her angry kid sister, to the seemingly heartless New York citizen who just wants to leave old memories behind, to the confused but ultimately compassionate human being trying to build something from a tragic loss. Her last lines, "You're the genius, figure it out!," uttered in a mixture of anger, desperation, hurt and, yes, love, were unforgettable.

But that emotional resonance need not have come only at the play's end, and certainly not from a supporting character. Given Auburn's material and the creative team involved, the play could and should have dazzled us. It certainly deserves a second chance in a remounting—with, perhaps, more rehearsals?

Atlantis' Production of "Proof" runs at the GSIS Theater until Jan. 27. Call 892-7078.

TRINIDAD and Salonga: Internal conflicts and a lot of concern



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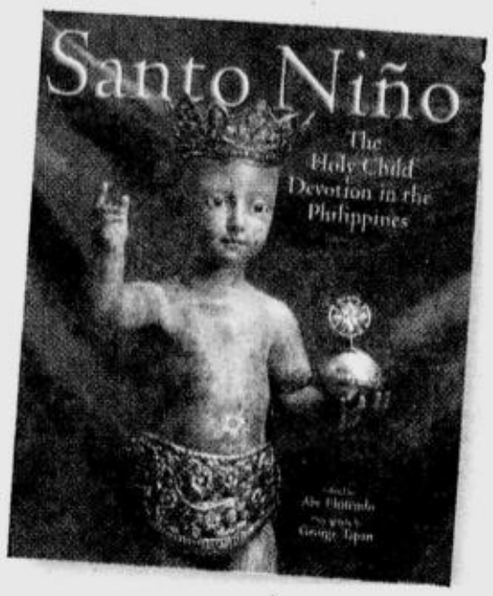
LIFESTYLE

Books

Revenge of the icons

A lavishly printed book on the Sto. Niño shows how the Filipinos' intense devotion to the Holy Child and the saints has checked the gross excesses of the Vatican II liturgical reforms



THE ORIGINAL Sto. Niño of Cebu

By Lito B. Zulueta

REVIEW

RIGHT after the Second Vatican Council, an iconoclastic revolution similar to the one in the 16th century occurred in the Church. The altars were cleared of venerated images that, to reforming churchmen, were a throwback to the era of a martial faith that was rich in ceremony and symbolism—not to say rich in their ivory and gem-encrusted statues—but otherwise utterly poor in substance and totally lacking in modernity. In the name of simplicity, the usual baroque accoutrements of the churches were set aside and relegated to minor chapels or kept in attics, to be replaced by the crucifix and little else, so much so that Catholic altars began to look like their dour Protestant cousins.

REVENGE/ p.E2

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PASAY-MANILA: Legend Mansion San Juan St. Pasay City. Telephone: 524-8068 / 69. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10AM to 12NN, Tuesday, Thursday 9:30 to 10:30AM

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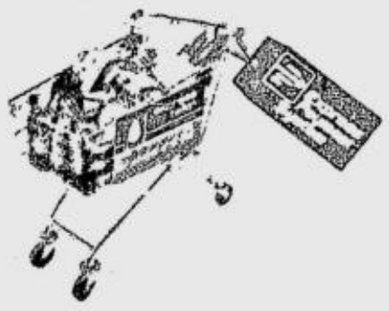

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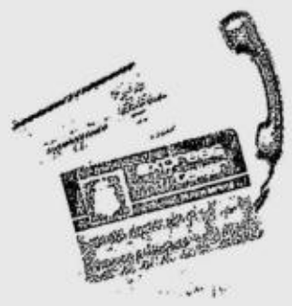

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Revenge of the icons

(From page E1)

The new simplicity—or the new boredom, if you could call it that—was also reflected in the liturgy. The Latin Mass was jettisoned and replaced by the vernacular. Sacred music of the Bach-tian mode was eased out and replaced by a new groove and a new idiom. In many instances, the novelty was abused. Nowadays songs in the Mass sound much like the jukebox (or is it MTV?). In fact, the Mass now looks and sounds like a concert, with an eager-beaver priest who seems to have trained in the homiletic school of Madonna and Jay Leno (that is, his preaching usually consists of striking a pose and delivering punch lines), and a choir whose musical literacy runs the gamut of the Mamas and the Papas and Linkin Park.

17TH-CENTURY image of the Holy Child at the San Agustin Church

The liturgical reforms have, by and large, their benefits. They have made Masses less forbidding and more personal. In the Philippines, they have made the Masses more folksy and popular. They have also provided an impetus to recover and enrich the vernacular. Globally, the new focus on the vernacular expressions has enhanced the catholicity of the Church. Many churches abroad, for example, have started to hold Masses in Tagalog and Ilocano in recognition of the steadily increasing Filipino migrant presence.

Not much headway

But the iconoclastic revolution did not make headway in the Philippines. Even in the immediate aftermath of Vatican II, Filipinos held on to their *santos*. In many a Filipino home, both rich and poor, one would invariably find a makeshift altar crammed with images that prefigures the worst nightmare of the population control fanatic.

It is true that for some Filipinos, the images function as some form of talisman that endows its possessor with special powers. The pagan features of the veneration may turn off the Vatican II Catholic, but the folk Catholicist can hardly care. To the diehard, an icon provides protection, refuge and blessing. Ask the seaman who keeps in his pocket a miniature image of the Virgin of Antipolo. Ask the Cebuano struggling in Hong Kong, the Middle East or the United States: His/Her Sto. Niño is a partner in hardship and success, a provider of both boon and comfort.

The modern Catholic, especially the American and European, may frown on these seeming displays of superstition and fanaticism. This is a surprising reaction considering, for example, the fanaticism with which Westerners embrace the latest Hollywood product, the latest pin-up idol, the latest athletic champion and the latest rock god or goddess (the last phrase is a western invention and shows the West's peculiar idolatry). After all, Hollywood usually merchandises its latest blockbuster by duplicating its characters and images in a myriad of forms and colors, veritable icons and idols in themselves. At least Filipino Catholics have the wisdom to know which idols are made of truly supernatural stuff.

Tantalizing

Nick Joaquin has said that the unrecorded period between 1521, when the Spaniards made their first conversions and left for Europe, and 1565, when they returned and found the Sto. Niño they had given as a gift to the queen of Ceby, is the most tantalizing period in Philippine history. This is because the long period should represent the uncharted transition between the end of paganism and the beginning of Christianity or, perhaps, of a new or reinvented paganism. The period between Vatican II and the return of traditional Catholicism is just as tantalizing. So what happened?

A generation after Vatican II, many Catholics have come to a new appreciation of the iconic faith. Hollywood movies like Baz Luhrmann's "William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet" have made Catholic iconography as fashionable, for example, as the Prada shirts and suits that Leonardo Di Caprio wears in the film. Pope John Paul II's Marian pilgrimages worldwide, including his highly publicized return to his homeland to pay tribute to the Virgin, have blunted the modern Catholic's repulsion at traditional practices.

Even the New Age bias for crystals and minerals has been beneficial to traditional Catholicism. After all, the veneration of images is really a recognition of the tactility and tangentiality of faith, that is, that the supernatural has a natural basis. Before one can reach the anagogical or mystical level of meaning, according to Thomas Aquinas, one must first reach the literal.

The palpability of faith is colorfully displayed in the book "Santo Nino: The Holy Child Devotion in the Philippines" (Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Nino Jesus, 2001), a well-packaged (designed by Eugene G. Ong) and gorgeously photographed (by George Tapan) book edited by lifestyle journalist Abe Florendo.

It is a very informative book. Dez Bautista provides us a history of the devotion, from the militant Reconquista, the decision of Queen Juana of Cebu to convert to Christianity upon catching sight of the Holy Child, the return of the Spaniards in 1565 and Camus' rediscovery of the icon in the hut of a native, and the apostolic work of the missionaries, notably the Augustinians, that was anchored on the propagation of the devotion. Florendo then charts the spread of the devotion, taking an aside by discussing in one chapter the Prague image, then zeroing in on the explosion of feasts associated with the Niño archipelago-wide. The devotion to the Child is linked by contributor Dulce Festin-Baybay with the veneration of saints in a chapter that discusses the saints who had had devotion to the Holy Infant. Then follow human-interest chapters such as the conduct of the different Sto. Niño feasts, the people who have made it their lifetime commitment to dress and spruce the images, the character of the various images and the Congregacion, an all-male organization of Sto. Niño devotees, many of them involved in creative designing.

Creative influence

The moving spirit of the project, veteran fashion designer Ben Farrales, publisher and founding chair of the Congregacion, writes that the book is "a symbol of my transformation" and dedicates it to his adopted children. "I used to be allergic to children and was a stern disciplinarian, impatient with their cries and shortcomings," he says. "I now give room for them to grow. The Infant Jesus has made me a better person."

The Holy Child should perhaps return the compliment by saying that Farrales and his designer-devotees have made it a more beautiful and popular image. It is not surprising that designers and creative people have attended to the religious reengineering of the Niño. Creatures of the senses, creative people start with the palpable to make assays at the impalpable, depicting their contours and enhancing their discernibility. God's image is for everyone to see because of these creative—and ultimately religious—raids.

The book and others like it signal a new appreciation of traditional Catholicism and provide impetus to the conservation of Catholic practices and features that were discarded in the eager rush to embrace change and modernity. There must be a way to balance the needs of the Church to signify its openness to the world and to the future without tossing out the habits of faith and modes of behavior that, however reeking of backwardness, have provided color and ambience to the Catholic lifestyle. In short, Catholics need not lose their cultural soul just to appear cool. After all, like the Niño, the child in us is ageless, eternal and catholic.

For copies of the book, call the Congregacion at 525-9126 or 410-3969

EL Capitan General, kept at the Recoletos Museum in Quezon City.

BEN Farrales' Sto. Niño in wax from Italy

Shower of Niños

(From page E4)

Hans and Sonny Viana, Farrales has become the group's ardent and tireless organizer and promoter. "My life revolves around the Sto. Niño. Whatever I do is always offered to Him. My relationship with Him has transformed me into a better person."

Simplicity, forthrightness, capacity to live fully the present, a sense of wonder and awe are the qualities Farrales cultivates not only in his pursuit of beauty in fashion designs but in his commitment to spread the devotion to the Infant Jesus as well.

This is evident in the group's apostolic work and annual holding of the Fiesta del Sto. Niño. This year, the 10-day exhibit of 500 Niños will be held on Jan. 24-Feb. 3 at the third floor of the Philippine National Bank, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, at 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. A 7 p.m. daily Mass and novena will be officiated at the PNB Banking Hall.

Guests at the event's formal opening at 5 p.m. on Jan. 24 include Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines Antonio Franco, PNB president and CEO Feliciano Miranda, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, Bishop Teodoro Buhain, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

STO. Niño from the Violago collection

A grand procession of 500 *carrozas* from Philtrade to Luneta Grandstand will be held on the last Sunday of January. Devotees are required to bring their images upon registration today until Jan. 23 at the third floor of PNB Skylight.

According to Farrales, the exhibit, which shows the Infant Jesus under various names and guises, is a showcase of Philippine tradition in folk and fine religious art. The four-hour procession, on the other hand, is a festive affair and religious treat for tourists.

The Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus' model—a 4-ft wooden image designed by Nolie Hans, Gang Gomez and Sonny Viana and sculpted by Rey Estonactoc—will be part of the exhibit and procession.

Farrales' own treasure—Sto. Niño de Oliva, an 18th-century image of wood which he stumbled upon in an antique shop on one of his travels abroad—will also be seen during the event.

DOM Martin de Jesus' Bambino de Aracoeli

Personal devotion

One who guides Farrales through troubled times and fills him with a feeling of great tenderness, the Sto. Niño has given his life a new direction. "I used to be stubborn and hard to get along with, but since I joined the Congregacion, I have learned to adjust to anything and everyone. Our apostolic work has given me a certain high," says Farrales.

The group carries out its regular apostolic work at the Capilla del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus at Violago Complex in Quezon City. They also go on pilgrimages to shrines in Prague, Scandinavia, Mexico and Western Europe.

Farrales describes the founding members as "a group of fashion designers, artists and collectors who have kept a long, personal devotion to the Sto. Niño, whom they fondly regard as the 'baby' in their homes."

The group was named after the church Santissimo Nombre de Jesus that was built soon after the finding of the Sto. Niño in 1567.

"We're not that holy. We also commit mistakes. But we're religious and blessed because our transformation did not happen overnight. It grew on us, which makes us conscious about our commitment," Farrales says.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

MANNY Castro's Sto. Niño de Cebu

VIRING de Asis' Sto. Niño del Espiritu Santo

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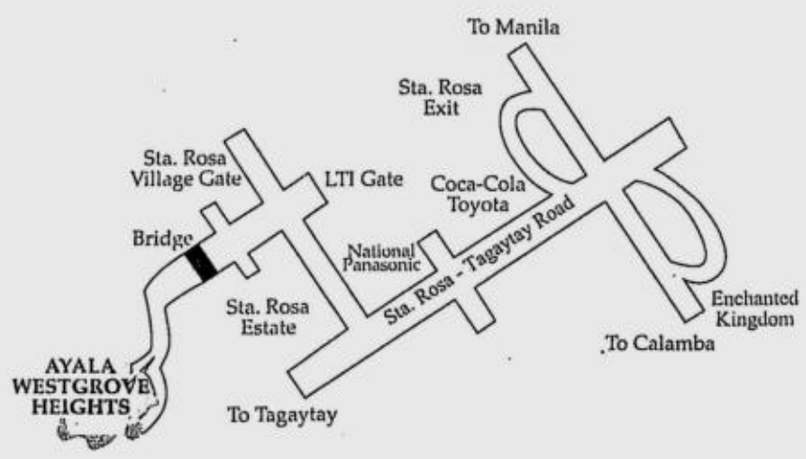

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OFFICERS and members of the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Sto. Niño Jesus: (standing, left to right) Manolo Estrella, Dennis Maturan, Germs Malabanan, Tony Adriano (board chair), Titoy Vera, Ogee Atos, Jing Chua (president), Bryan Brosas, Benson Nobrera, Val de Mesa, Totoy Bayobo, Ferdie Esguerra, Jun Regalado and Art Borja; (seated, L-R) Ricky Miranda (vice president), Nolie Hans (treasurer), Ben Farrales (founding chair), Bobby Valdemor, Chito Ilagan, Rommel Ortin (secretary); (front row, L-R) John Enriquez, Jessie Nell, Rommel Elipaño and Mel Chionglo PHOTO BY MANDY NAVASERO

Shower of Niños

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY GEORGE TAPAN

FASHION designer Ben Farrales was not fond of children. He was impatient with their cries and shortcomings. But since he joined the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus in 1978, a group of designers, artists and collectors who have committed themselves to propagating devotion to the Infant Jesus, the experience has been life-changing and very personal. "There has been a 360-degree change in my lifestyle, especially my ways with my adopted children Cesar, Feliciano and Salvador," says Farrales, who, when faced with the difficulties of parenting, turns to the Holy Child for guidance.

Since he was recruited by Nolie

SHOWER/ p.E3

STO. Niño de Providencia in Las Piñas

Ben Farrales and the men behind the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus repay the blessings they have received through an exhibit of 500 icons of the Holy Child

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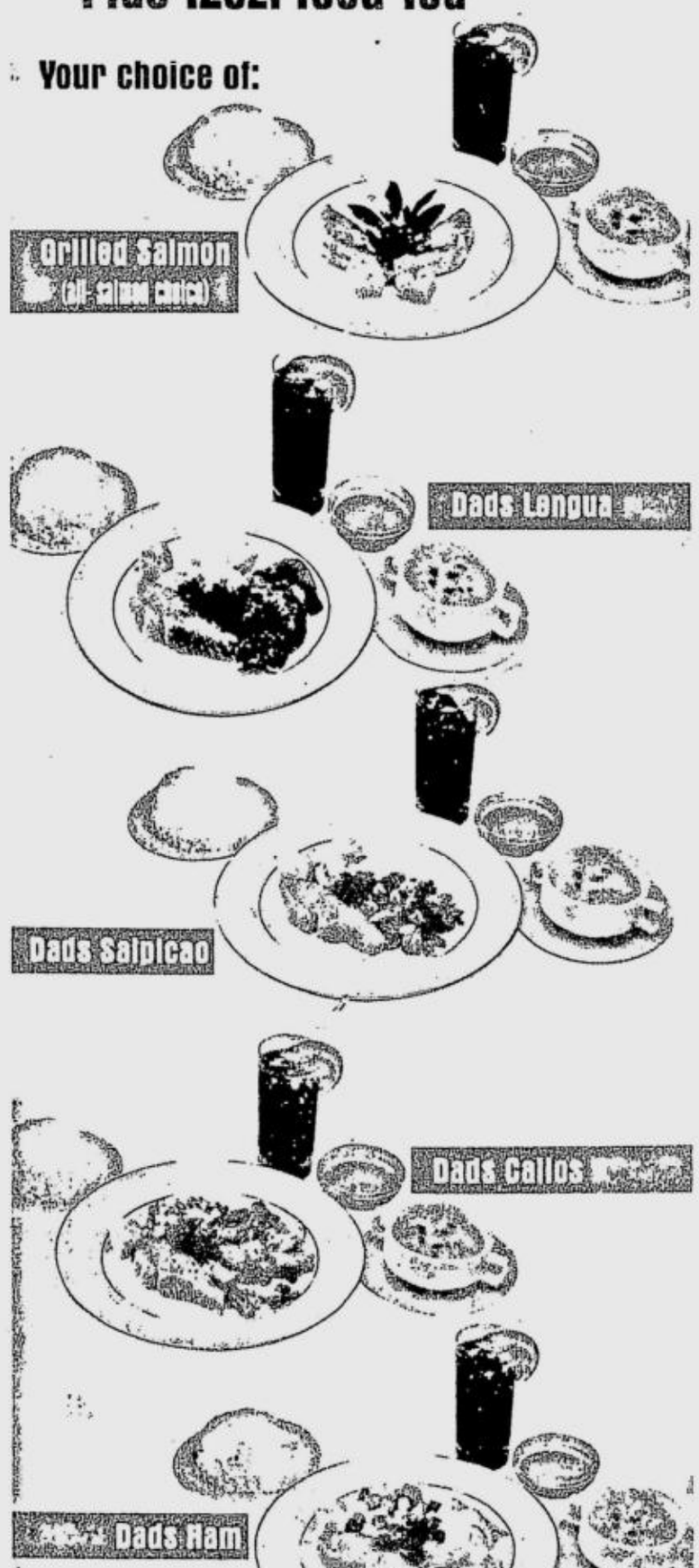

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